

Clean sand, clear air, pure water in a small Hebei island.

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Fine art paintings return to the mainland.

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Reasons to eat spinach.

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Liu Jingmin hands the torch to George Killian (second from right).
Photo by Goldman

Beijing Keeps Flame

Delighted officials break 40-year tradition to honor capital

By Tong Qingan / Zhao Pu

Beijing's Universiade was so successful, the city got to keep the torch.

Hailed as the "best ever" by Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire (FISU) President George Killian, the 21st World University Games ended on Saturday. For the first time, the Universiade torch was not returned to its traditional home in Turin University in Italy, but instead given to Beijing to keep permanently, breaking 40 years of tradition.

Killian had declared the closing of the games as the FISU flag was passed to officials from Daegu, South Korea, the next host city. Following tradition, Beijing Vice Mayor Liu Jingmin handed the torch back to Killian at the Saturday morning ceremony. Finally, it was handed to Rinaldo Bertolino, president of Turin University, the first host university of the International University Games and the traditional keeper of the flame.

To every guest's apparent surprise and after an apparently improvised discussion, Bertolino then handed the torch back to Li Guobin, deputy secretary-general of the Beijing Organizing Committee of the 21st Universiade. The gesture indicated official recognition for the outstanding success of the Beijing Universiade, according to the university president. Receiving the 1959 torch, Li said it would be kept on permanent exhibition in the National Museum of Chinese Revolution.

Now a new torch will be made in Turin to be ignited at the next Universiade in Daegu in 2003.

'Economics Nobel Prize' Launched for China

By Wang Xuefeng / Shan Jingliang

A 300,000-yuan (\$36,145) annual prize for outstanding contributions to the theory, policy and research approach of Chinese macroeconomics has been established by the Macroeconomic Research Foundation.

Organizers say the selection and nomination process for the Macroeconomic Research Foundation Award, a 1,600,000-yuan package of six prizes, is similar to that of the Nobel Economics Prize. Individuals — rather than achievements — will be chosen. Internet surfers and 103 economists will help pick the three under-55-year-

old winners of the Outstanding Contribution Award. On top of the Outstanding Contribution Award, four scholars under 55 stand to win one of three 100,000-yuan Excellent Talent Awards.

Appraisal will last nearly a year, mainly conducted on three top Chinese economics websites: the China Macroeconomic Information Network (www.macrochina.com.cn), the China Economic Information Network (www.cei.com.cn) and Drnet (www.drcnet.com.cn).

The People's Bank of China "and other departments" sponsored the prizes, said Wang Jian, the foundation's standing deputy secretary general.

Police Polish up Badges

By Liu Shengliang / Shan Jingliang

Beijing police got new badges. More than 5,000 lucky Beijing bobbies will receive their shiny silver shield-shaped emblems on October 1 national holiday, according to Beijing Public Security Bureau.

The badge and an identity certificate will identify bearers as the criminal branch, indicating membership links with the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO).

The badge has a "dark blue bottom and silver design" incorporating



The new police badge.
Photo by Qu Liyan

EDITOR: LIU FENG XIA LEI DESIGNER: PANG LEI

Nasdaq, Please Hold

—NetEase boss

By Yang Xiao

NetEase.com's boss Ding Lei told Beijing Today he will be sending Nasdaq authorities a detailed fiscal report within "several days" after the stock market halted trading in his company on Tuesday requesting "additional information".

"At that time NetEase can trade again," said the embattled founder of one of China's few surviving Internet portals by telephone.

Trading will remain halted until NetEase satisfies the Nasdaq's request. The stock

closed at \$0.65. NetEase will probably be delisted soon, said Wang Juntao, former GM of my8848.net.

"Nasdaq has tightened its management," he said, "In February, there was only one stock delisted, but in August, there were 10 stocks delisted."

China has three main portals listed on Nasdaq. Sohu and Sina did not suffer on Tuesday the aftershock of the NetEase halting. Sina closed at \$1.3, up 0.32%, Sohu at \$1.08, up 0.93%. (See Page 3)

Photos by Dageng



Opera Gimmick Flops

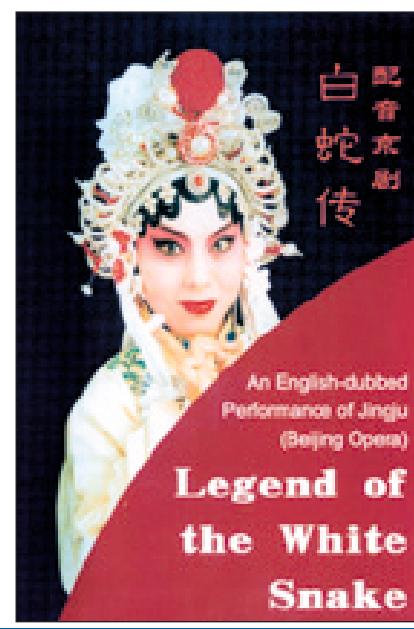
Live English translation delights media, makes one ticket sale

By Shan Jinliang

Theatergoers listen to earphones as the 60-member Onetone Cultural Exchange Company performs "The Legend of the White Snake". Four interpreters render rhythmic readings of English verse that merges magnetically with the instrumental dialogues.

An Englishman in the audience is moved to tears as the classical ode to love is translated in accordance with Chinese poetic styles by Cui Xiangwei, the company manager. For the first three shows each Saturday, audiences boom and critics pile high their praises. It's a surefire smash hit. Until Saturday.

On Saturday, the company began charging admission, with tickets ranging from 120 yuan to 600 yuan for the 80-minute drama. A Los Angeles native provided the show's only sale. But hundreds of media and other guests with their free passes crammed into the 698 seats of the Beijing Traditional Op-



era Theater in Fengtai District.

Lack of funds and insufficient mass media promotions has hurt ticket sales, says

Cui Xiangwei. He made an appeal for cooperation with any interested organization or individuals.

The target audience for the drama, says Cui, is overseas visitors and resident foreigners; but it is nearly impossible to add a temporary activity to the fixed tour itineraries organized by travel agencies.

A performance with more than 60 actors will take place on October 1 National Day. Cui hopes it will attract more foreigners and make a step toward the overseas markets.

Beijing Traditional Opera Theater, 300 meters west from Yang Qiao, South Third Ring Road, Fengtai District, 7:15pm every Saturday.

For more Chinese-language information, call 6726-7809.

Pandas Back to Wild in 2005

By Zhao Pu

China plans to send pen-reared giant pandas back into the wild in 2005 for the first time in history, according to Zhang Hemin, director of the Chinese Panda Protection & Research Center. The 2005 sending-back project will be held within the Wolong Nature Reserve, Sichuan Province.

The second phase of China Pandas

Park Project, aiming at helping pandas regain survival skills in the reservation, is currently being designed according to resources from the center. About forty or fifty pen-reared pandas will be living in a natural half-breeding environment after the establishment of the project next year. The aim is for all pen-reared pandas to live in the wild and to diversify breeding among the pandas. The first phase of

China Pandas Park Project has already been finished with a capacity of holding 10 pandas in a half-breeding environment.

Zhang specially pointed out that sending the pandas back to the fields is not the same as the general concept of sending animals back into the wild. The Natural Panda Reservation will become a natural environment for the pandas to live in and enrich their species.

There are less than 1,000 pandas in China at present, with 40 percent living in nature reserves, and about 110 pandas being artificially bred.

"To rescue and protect pandas, we could not depend on merely artificial reproduction techniques. It is improper to set increasing numbers as the final goal," commented Zhang, "the pandas should be sent back to the wild."

Mad Rush on Fifth Set of Notes

By Zhao Pu

The newly issued bank notes ran out within a few hours as a result of public enthusiasm.

The fifth set of the third batch of RMB paper currencies was issued by the People's Bank of China on September 1, including 10 yuan and 50 yuan notes. With more advanced anti-counterfeit technology, the new-edition bank notes have aroused great enthusiasm among the public.

In many banks, local people took most of the newly issued notes out within a few hours. Many enthusiastic people visited the bank several times in the early morning, hoping to be the first to get their hands on the new notes. Until now, the distribution quota of the newly issued notes is quite small. Moreover, the new notes can only be found in branches of the banks.

According to sources from the People's Bank of China, there has been a breakthrough of anti-counterfeit technology on the newly issued notes, as compared with the fourth set. The overall design, printing quality, and anti-counterfeit technology, have basically reached advanced international standards. In accordance with the design theme of the fifth set—depicting the country's beautiful scenery, the newly issued notes have adopted the Potala Palace and Three Gorges into the pattern.



City Ponders Golf Courses

Time to tackle water crisis, says expert

By Huang Jianhua / Shan Jinliang

Golf course building must be banned in Beijing as the city faces its most severe water crisis, an environmental expert has warned.

"Dozens" of golf courses in the suburbs have already reaped untold damage over the last decade, according to city officials. More courses are planned for Beijing.

Thirsty for cash, oxygen and water, golf courses are really "green deserts", says Li Hao, an environmental expert at Beijing Earth View Education & Research Center, a non-profit organization.

Foreign countries including Japan and Thailand have long acknowledged the ecological dangers inherent in all golf courses. These nations recognize there are more disadvantages than advantages, says Li.

He cites arguments familiar to most foreigners, but so far largely unairied in China:

* Golf originates in Scotland where rainfall makes grass less of a luxury. It is no easy task for golf grass to adjust to the arid conditions of the capital city. The special grass needed for golf guzzles up water.

* Golf courses require extensive use of pesticides. The pesticides permeate into groundwater.

Golf courses, says Li, deliver an environmentally destructive double-whammy: lawns actually consume oxygen, not generate it. For a city that ranks in the global top 10 for air pollution, it becomes even harder to justify.

* Beijing Golf Association says the capital has 10,000 golf club members. The market is small, as golf in Beijing remains mostly the province of a rich sporting minority.

But a Beijing Municipal Development Planning Committee official says golf courses do not hurt the city as they did not occupy cultivated land. "They are good for forest ration," said Yu Zuxiang. Golf courses use less pesticide than crops, he said.

The committee is investigating and registering golf courses.

Centralized Medicine System by Year End

By Shan Jinliang

China's Minister of Public Health Zhang Wenkang said on September 2 all medical branches in the prefecture and municipal cities are to enforce a system of centralized medicine bidding and purchasing by the end of the year.

Zhang made the remarks at a meeting of the medicine industry. He said the combat against corruption in medicine purchasing is one of the two tasks of the campaign against unhealthy tendencies.

The township medical and public health system is to be upgraded this year. He added that medical materials will also be included in the system, and that the medicine list under the new system will be longer.

He stressed justice and fair competition in the market in particular. Supervisions on medical service quality and organization finances are also to be intensified. Zhang also insisted sufficient attention be paid to the public health of rural areas and for the poor.

City Cracks Down on Traffic

By Li Fengshuan / Zhao Yin / Shan Jinliang

In a desperate attempt to stave off gridlock, cars will be "under stern restrictions" within Beijing's Second Ring Road area and subject to "limited restrictions" in surrounding 1,040 sq. km suburban areas of Beijing.

Restrictions include an outright car ban in congested areas, peak time bans and parking charges. Beijing has 1.6 million cars and 475,000 parking spaces. Parking difficulties have created a bottleneck in city transport and the development of car use. The capital so far has adopted parking charges, and banned cars without appropriate licenses from parking in Beijing districts.

Beijing city vice-mayor Liu Haiyan said different policies would exist in different areas in accordance with local conditions.

Liu said Changchun, capital of Jilin Province in Northwest China, has an "unlimited possession, limited use" policy for developing car use. Media reports suggest Beijing residents understand the meaning of this slogan.

Illegal Foreign Exchange Targeted

China has been intensifying efforts to combat illegal dealing in foreign exchange and ban marketplaces from such illegal trading, in a bid to rectify the order of foreign exchange trading in the country.

A circular jointly issued Tuesday by the State Administration for Foreign Exchange (SAFE) and the Ministry of Public Security reiterated that criminal punishments will be given to those people who deal in foreign exchange outside designated foreign exchange banks or the China foreign exchange trading center and its branches, with the volume of conversion exceeding 200,000 U.S. dollars, or illegal gains exceeding 50,000 yuan.

(Xinhuanet)

China's Smallest Ethnic Group Celebrates Autonomy Anniversary

Orenqo Autonomous Banner (county), home to 2,237 Orenqo people, held a big celebration on its 50th anniversary Saturday in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.

Orenqo people used to be isolated hunters in the virgin forest on the Greater Khingan Range in north China.

Thanks to the support from the government, Orenqo was able to have an ethnic autonomous banner named after them in 1952, the first of its kind in China. It means much more than just a name. The decision was

famous brands in the country's jewelry industry.

The jewelry business has been expanding rapidly in China over the past two decades. There were more than 500 state-run jewelry-making enterprises and over 1,000 overseas-financed jewelry-processing companies by 2000. Annual retail sales of jewelry exceed 80 billion yuan.

"The biggest value of this exhibition is to promote China's own famous brands of jewelry, as well as ancient jade culture which dates back several thousand years,"

remarked Zhou Jiangao, director of China Precious and Semi-Precious Stones Association, "and it is also a kind of preparatory work for Chinese jewelry's entry into the international market as China will hopefully join the WTO by the end of this year."

The Beijing Jewelry Exhibition, held twice a year in spring and autumn, is the largest in China, measured by size, capacity, quality and the number of attendant enterprises and factories. This is the 22nd exhibition; the exhibition began in the early 90's.

Beijing International Financial Center Aims Too High

By Zhao Pu

The Beijing International Financial Center (BIFC), along with three other residential buildings, was listed as an "illegal construction" by the city planning department in the second phase inspection. The BIFC is currently under construction.

Located on Beijing's Financial Street, the BIFC building has already exceeded the approved height of 21 floors and has reached 24 floors. According to the Municipal City Planning Committee, the so-called "illegal construction" includes not only unapproved projects, but also those projects that

exceed the approved height, area, surpass the designated location, or all three.

In detail, there are different forms of illegal constructions. Exceeding the approved height means building additional floors or increasing the height on a single-floor basis. Exceeding the area means expanding the construction site, whereas surpassing the designated location indicates changing the originally approved location of the project.

About 30% of the approved projects are illegally exceeding construction limits to varying degrees, according to the city planning department.



Beijing International Financial Center under construction exceeded the approved height of 21 floors.

(Xinhuanet)

Dentsu Sets Its Eyes on China

By Deng Ning
Shi Xingyu

On August 31, Dentsu Inc., one of the world's most famous ad companies, signed a 3-year long agreement to launch the "China-Japan Marketing Study Exchange Project" with the Ministry of Education, China Advertising Association and 6 famous universities

Yutaka Narita
Photo by Zhan Jian
of China (Peking University, Tsinghua University among others). This new agreement comes after an educational exchange in advertising 5 years ago. At the time of the 100th anniversary of Dentsu, our reporter interviewed President Yutaka Narita.

As a first class advertising company, Dentsu is the largest advertising company in Japan, occupying the greatest volume of business in the world's advertising market. In 1996, when the Chinese advertising industry was just making its first step forward, Dentsu chose it as a partner for advertising education. Over the past 5 years, Dentsu has offered its experts to give a 2-week long program of lectures each year to students in advertising departments in the above six universities and has invited lecturers of the six universities to conduct research at Dentsu.

Yutaka Narita said China has a huge market that needs qualified professionals in advertising. Now more and more young people want to enter into the members of the advertising industry, and they need to equip themselves with 2 Cs (Communication and Creative) and 2 Ps (Planning and Produce).

In the opinion of Yutaka Narita, advertising media has become complex through the development of the Internet and other new media. In the long term, advertisements in sports will take the biggest chunk in the whole market. Especially for China, the winning of the bid for 2008 Olympic Games will greatly stimulate and promote the development of the advertising industry.

Because of the coming 30th anniversary of the normal relationship between China and Japan next year, Yutaka Narita thinks it is necessary to give the people in both countries, especially the young people, more chances to communicate in all fields, and thus more Chinese people can get to know the kindness of most Japanese people. He wishes, besides the main purpose, that the communicating program of Advertising Education between China and Japan will also help to promote mutual understanding between the Chinese and Japanese peoples.

Tsingtao Beer Appoints New Manager

By Yang Xiao

The Board of Directors of Tsingtao Beer declared last Wednesday that the Board has formally appointed Jin Zhiguo as the general manager of Tsingtao Beer. The former GM Peng Zuoyi died of a sudden heart attack in late July.

Peng Zuoyi had a series of aggressive strategy. He came to power in 1993 and acquired scores of local breweries all over the country and soon made the old state-owned company better than ever. The replacement manager must have the ability to continue Peng's strategy. Jin Zhiguo is the man to carry on his work.

Jin is forty-five years old, and has an associate's degree. He has worked in Tsingtao Beer Factory since November 1975, then as the associate manager of Tsingtao Beer and general manager of Tsingtao Beer, Xi'an Branch.

According to the company's announcement GM Jin Zhiguo possesses the capability and experience of whole programming and leadership, and has strategic vision, as well as a strong innovative consciousness. He will surely endure more risky and challenging tasks.

Yin Guangxia GM Dismissed

By Yang Xiao

Yin Guangxia Co., the fraudster of the Chinese stock market, released an announcement on August 31 that its vice-chairman of the board and GM Li Youqiang was dismissed to stand charges of fraud.

In early August, Yin Guangxia was found cheating on its annual report. The shares of Yin Guangxia were suspended after the CSRC sent an investigation group. The fraud is mainly from Yin Guangxia's Tianjin subsidiary. Therefore Dong Bo, GM of the Tianjin subsidiary, was forced to leave his position. Since Li Youqiang was former GM of Tianjin subsidiary, he has to take the responsibility.

The company also published its half-year report on the same day. The big profit, which surmounted 160 million yuan in the 2000 annual report, has been reduced to a loss of 19.53 million yuan, a 4 cent loss per share.



NetEase Restates 2000 Net Loss

\$4.3 million improperly recorded in revenue

By Jason Young

Chinese Internet portal NetEase.com, which had been facing delisting on the NASDAQ for failing to file its annual report on time, said last Friday its 2000 net loss was 18% wider than it had previously reported.

NetEase said in a press release that it restated its 2000 financial results after an auditor determined it had improperly recorded \$4.3 million in revenue, including \$1.1 million in advertising revenue, \$2 million in non-cash revenue and \$1.2 million in revenue resulting from other transactions.

NetEase shares closed down 3 cents, or 4.4%, to 65 cents in NASDAQ trade last week. The stock, which peaked at \$17.25 just after its June 2000 IPO, has ranged from 51 cents to \$7.75 in the past year.

The company said its restated 2000 net revenues were \$3.7 million, 52.3% lower than the previously reported \$7.9 million. As a result, it restated its net loss to \$20.4 million, from \$17.3 million.

NetEase said the adjustments did not affect its total net cash balance of \$85.6 million as of December 31.

Delisting fears

Weeks after narrowly escaping delisting, NetEase.com again faces what could be a do-or-die decision on the fate of its NASDAQ-traded shares, a company spokeswoman said last Friday.

A panel from the NASDAQ stock exchange in Washington D.C. held a hearing to decide whether to strike the firm off the US technology-laden exchange after it failed to submit its 2000 annual report and first quarter results, said the company spokeswoman Liang Xiangnong.



The stock, which peaked at \$17.25 just after its June 2000 IPO, now only values at \$0.65. Facing too many difficulties, Ding Lei does not believe in fate

This Tuesday the panel rejected NetEase's fiscal report. If NetEase does not provide another detailed fiscal report within 3 days, it will delist for sure.

Analysts said that, if delisted, NetEase shares would be moved to the less transparent over-the-

counter (OTC) market, where shares trade in lower volumes than on the National Market System, known simply as the NASDAQ Stock Exchange.

The OTC market is also run by the National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD), and its listed shares are often more difficult to sell than those on the national system.

Lost its buyers & managers

Despite the fast growth of China's Internet industry in terms of total users, a low-yielding advertising market has kept the leading portals, including Sina.com and Sohu.com, from turning a profit.

For months NetEase has been looking for a buyer with the help of investment bank Goldman Sachs, but analysts fear the company's accounting woes may make a sale difficult.

In May, NetEase delayed the release of its first-quarter earnings because of the audit leading to its 2000 restatement. In June, before the audit was complete, Chief Executive King Lai and Chief Operating Officer Susan Chen left the company.

Crucial \$1 level for more than one month

Last Friday, however, Chief Executive Ding Lei said in a press release that China's Internet users - estimated at 26 million, up sharply from 9 million in 1999 - still offer the company hope of doing viable business.

"We are pleased that the trend in the growth of our advertising revenues, which is our principal source of revenue, remained strongly positive, increasing by 179% from fiscal 1999 to 2000," Ding said.

The stock had been trading under the crucial \$1 level for more than one month -- the period of time after which a stock must face a delisting review panel.

HP & Compaq Merger

By Jason Young

Hewlett-Packard Co. announced on Monday it will buy Compaq Computer Corp. for some \$25 billion in stock.

The combined company, which would retain the HP name, would become the largest personal computer vendor in the world and have revenues of \$87.4 billion, rivaling information technology leader IBM.

"At a particularly challenging time for the IT industry, this combination vaults us into a leadership role with customers and partners. Together we will shape the industry for years to come," said Carly Fiorina, who will head the combined firm and has been CEO of HP since 1999, when she launched a restructuring effort just before the global economy began to sour.

Shareholders of Palo Alto-based HP would own 64 percent of the combined company and Compaq's shareholders would own 36 percent. Fiorina, HP Chairman and CEO, would be chairman and CEO of the combined company with Compaq chief CEO Michael Capellas becoming president.

Under the terms of the merger, which would rank as one of the largest in the technology field, Compaq shareholders would receive 0.6325 shares of HP for each share owned. That values Houston-based Compaq at \$14.68 a share, a nearly 19 percent premium to its closing price of \$12.35 on Friday.

Fiorina announced she would cut thousands of jobs after the merger. But the companies' PR officials confirmed to *Beijing Today* on Tuesday that Beijing would not be affected by the merger.



By Zhao Yijiang

Duan Yongji, known far and wide as "Village Head" of Beijing's Zhongguancun Science Park, holds high positions in three leading companies in China's IT industry. What is 55-year-old Duan's secret of success in the new economy?

Stone age

With an investment of only 20,000 yuan and without any government backing, Duan Yongji founded the Stone Co. in 1984 which has now grown to be a giant with 50 branches worldwide and reported accumulated revenues of 40.9 billion yuan at the end of last year.

When looking back at his thorny startup experience, he emphasizes two business philosophies. One is "walking with giants", the world-class partners of Stone Group including Mitsubishi, Fujitsu and Compaq. He knows that the cooperation gives his employees ample opportunities to work with the best companies, as well as the investments and resources to develop the company itself.

The other is "from bicycle to vehicle". Duan explains, "The old company is like a bicycle with two



HP CEO Carly Fiorina (left) and Compaq chief CEO Michael Capellas

Old Player in New Game

Not just in business

wheels: product and technology. The modern one is a vehicle of four wheels: product, technology, market and finance."

He fulfilled his theory by making Stone Electronics Technology Ltd. go public on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange in 1993 when Chinese Mainland bourses had only been established for 2 years.

Beyond business

Before Duan Yongji entered business circles in 1985, he had already served as a government official. So besides being a successful businessman, he is also an active advisor in the development of China's IT industry.

As a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), he was invited as an expert to give a report on the new economy. While many experts and scholars are beating the drum for the "Digital China" concept, he asked people to cool down.

"Network economy does not mean an economy developed under the concept of networks, but one which is developed by using networking technology, or in other words, by transforming traditional industries with information and networking tech-

nology," he noted.

Future empire

In the near future, there are three major issues for him to solve.

Firstly, he plans to lead Stone Group to surpass Legend, which was far behind them 10 years ago.

Secondly, he plans to reorganize Centek, a Shenzhen-listed enterprise of which he was appointed CEO by the government. Rather than undertaking the main responsibility for the construction of Zhongguancun, he wants Centek to focus more effort on hi-tech business.

Thirdly, he united four of the dominant forces in the Chinese software market to invest 1 billion yuan to form the country's largest software company. He will lead the new company, to be called Zhongguancun Software Group, to develop large-scale applications for finance, security, transport and management.

"We have a talent pool of 500,000 people in the park, more qualified personnel than in Silicon Valley. But why don't we make as many accomplishments?" Duan asked full of ambition.

(Photo provided by Zhao Yijiang)

Bustling Beijing Ready for CBD Festival

By Zhao Hongyi

Both the Beijing municipal government and its people are struggling to build their city into an international metropolis. After winning the bid for the 2008 Olympics in July and hosting the 21st Universiade in August, the city is now preparing for the second "Beijing Chaoyang International Business Festival" from September 19-22. The festival is an annual business gathering to promote the city's CBD (Central Business District) around the world.

There are quite a number of "festivals" held every year in and around Beijing, like the water melon festival, peach blossom festival, kite festival, computer festival and even beer festival. "But the CBD festival stands out among the rest because it promotes the city's status to a higher developmental stage," said an organizing committee official from the government of Chaoyang District government, eastern part of the municipality where the CBD lies.

Approved by the State Council of the country's



The slogan on the advertisement board for the second "Beijing Chaoyang International Business Festival" reads: New Beijing, New Chaoyang, Great Olympics and New Business

Photo by Zhuang Jian

central government in 1993, Beijing began to construct the central business district. Located near the China World Trade Hotel on the eastern side of Chang'an Avenue, the CBD has an area of 3.99 square kilometers and encompasses most of the capital's luxury hotels, office blocks and diplomatic compounds.

The city held the first "Beijing Chaoyang International Business Festival" last year, attracting more than 14 billion yuan investment from home and abroad. Earlier this year, the municipal government launched an open bidding for the design of the CBD, and received a number of designs from several world famous architecture agencies. It is believed the organizing committee will announce the winning design at the festival.

As far as Beijing Today has learnt, the second "Beijing Chaoyang International Business Festival" will consist of four parts: namely, trade fairs and exhibitions, forums and symposiums, business opportunities, and cultural entertainments.

MOFTEC Quickens Pace for E-Commerce

By Zhao Hongyi

The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, MOFTEC, is stepping up its pace for an electronic and data management system on the country's foreign trade and economic exchanges. The ministry set up a new department in charge of e-commerce development, information services, network construction for China's foreign trade at all levels of its administrative system. The department will also standardize national legal formats for e-commerce and e-invoices and among other things.

In general, the new Department of International E-Commerce Administration will strengthen the ministry, as well as the central government's role in planning and monitoring e-commerce development in the country.



Photo by Jackey

Student Apartments Offer Better Accommodation

By Zhao Hongyi

Beijing is in the process of constructing student apartments.

After the launching of the first large scale student apartment blocks by Beijing Forestry University in the northern part of the city, the construction of another block has been kicked off by the city's Chaoyang District in the eastern part of the capital.

The newly launched student residential block is located on the utmost eastern part of Chang'an Avenue, neighboring Beijing Broadcasting Institute, China University of Mining & Technology and Beijing Second Foreign Language University. The 139 million yuan investment and 58,000 square meter student apartment block will offer high quality living conditions to over 5,000 students from the neighboring universities and institutes. A management committee from the universities concerned will handle the management of the block.

Due to the great potential market and the city's efforts to modernize its university management, the construction of student apartments has spread throughout the city. The Athletes' Village for the recently held 21st Universiade will also be used as student apartments, according to sources of the municipal government.

SOE Debts Cannot Be Cancelled

By Zhao Hongyi

Debts of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) cannot be cancelled, confirmed China's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC).

MOFTEC made this remark in response to rumors that once a foreign enterprise sets up a joint venture with a Chinese state-owned enterprise, the latter's debt can be canceled with the foreign partner taking responsibility to repay the debt.

Recently, the government of western China's Shaanxi province made misleading statements about SOE debts at the Shaanxi-Singapore Trade and Economic Forum held in Xi'an, capital city of the province. Officials from MOFTEC stressed that local governments, including provincial governments, have no right to decide whether or not debts of SOEs can be canceled.

The official explained that currently, the central government allows foreign investors to invest in some small-sized SOEs that are not so important strategically.



Foreign Seed Merchants Keen to Enter Chinese Market

By Zhao Hongyi

China is an agricultural production giant, which hence creates a large market for agricultural seeds. With the country's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO), it is believed that the country's agricultural seed market will have to be opened soon.

At the ninth Beijing Seed Trade Fair held on August 28-31, over sixty foreign seed-breeding producers participated. According to the organizing committee, the new participants came from USA, Canada, Japan, and South Korea, which greatly expanded the scope of the fair.

According to current regulations, foreign seed-selling companies and wholly foreign invested seed breeding companies cannot directly enter the Chinese market at present. Thus Sino-foreign joint ventures of seed-breeding companies are the only formula for foreign companies to enter the potentially huge market in the country.

China's agricultural seed consumption exceeds 12.5 billion kilograms per year. Over sixty foreign companies have entered into the domestic seed-breeding industry by means of joint ventures. In Beijing alone, the number of foreign companies has reached 10, occupying over 10 percent of the local market.

"Obviously, here lies the largest seed market in the world," said Mr. Jork, an agricultural seed merchant from the United States, "China has 300 million mu of corn production, which consumes 300 million kilograms of corn seeds. You cannot refuse such a huge and attractive market."

"Our company will spare no effort to explore this market," confirmed Mr. Jork.

In fact, there does exist a huge demand for foreign agricultural seeds in the country too.

"Foreign seeds have a higher and much more stable quality, higher purity and more famous brands," said Mr. Wu Shaoyi, vice general manager of the municipal agricultural seed company, "even though the price is much higher, most of our customers prefer to buy foreign seed, or you could say seed from Sino-foreign joint ventures."

The domestic seed market is facing several problems such as the entry of fake products, and pirating of intellectual property rights (IPRs). Both the government and market have realized that with the country's entering the World Trade Organization, the domestic market has to improve protection of intellectual property rights, and prevent fake seeds taking root across the market.

Beijing Needs Foreign Teachers

By Zhao Hongyi

Beijing's successful bid to host the 2008 Olympic Games has encouraged both the government and inhabitants of the city to learn English. But the capital finds it lacks foreign teachers to offer the language training courses. The market for teaching English is set to grow steadily over the next seven years.

In fact, the English training market of the capital has been booming over the past decade as young people are seeking better jobs and opportunities to study abroad. After winning the 2008 Olympic bid, the municipal government placed an order requiring its governmental officials to study English, while ordinary inhabitants should learn some English for communication with foreigners.

According to the order, municipal officials must take a three-month extensive training course. The municipal government even set up an office to coordinate and monitor the language training campaign. Each official will get a certificate as long as he or she passes the examination.

Meanwhile, millions of everyday English dialogue prints have been sent to most of the service sectors in the city like taxi companies, hotels, department stores and shopping centers, as well as companies and entities of various industries. All employees of these sectors and

industries are also asked to learn some basic English for communication with foreigners in the city.

All the above measures indicate a potentially huge language training industry in the making. But the city lacks foreign language teachers both in quality and quantity. Foreigners, native English speakers in particular, will be in high demand over the next seven years.

Currently in China, the recruitment of foreigners is bound by a number of restrictions and procedures. There are only 185 institutions in Beijing certified to recruit foreigners, of which 122 are under the control of the municipality and the rest are controlled by the central government. According to the statistics from the central and local governments, there are only 1,000 or so foreign experts working in schools, educational training centers, media, medical and health care organizations and sports research institutions. But in fact, more foreigners are working illegally as teachers. The local government is encouraging both recruiters and employees to undertake the necessary procedures and legalize their status.

It is believed that even if the current foreigners legalize their status, the city still lacks vast quantities of foreign teachers in government owned schools and universities, as well as privately owned language centers.



Photo by Zhuang Jian

Grape Wine Industry Experiencing Adjustment

By Zhao Hongyi

To better demonstrate its grape planting industry and grape wine brewery industry, Huailai, the famous grape production base neighboring Beijing and in Hebei province, will host its third Grape Wine Festival from September 15 to October 5. This can be seen as one of the county's efforts to develop the local grape related industries. After rapid development over one decade, China's grape wine industry is experiencing a new wave of reforms. This time, the industry is fully opening its arms to cooperate with their foreign counterparts.

Last month, Chang Yu Wine Group Co. Ltd. Yantai announced cooperation with Vin Alcoolset Spiritueux de France (VASE) by means of shares exchange. More established names include Great Wall and Dynasty, both of which are Sino-French joint ventures.

Meanwhile, a number of other new local brands like "Sheng Quan" (magic spring) of Yunnan province have invited French experts to be technical consultant in their production process.

In the early 1990s, imported grape wines once occupied China's domestic consumer market and put high pressure on the local grape wine producers. But in the past several years, after cooperation, joint ventures, technical transfer and other means, China's grape wine industry seems to have found a better way to cooperate with and compete against their foreign counterparts.

Joint venture and technical transfer do not mean no import at all. In fact, there is still a certain amount of foreign grape wine imported each year. Though priced highly, these foreign wines can still find their markets in China.



Highly priced imported grape wines can still find their market in China, even though the local wines are winning a larger part of the market share

Photo by Zhuang Jian

Young couples keen to tie the knot on National Day

By Wang Dandan

No more reservations are available at Beijing's five star hotels for wedding banquets during the October 1 National Day holiday period. Although it is still one month away, all of Beijing's five-star hotels report that their function rooms are already fully booked.

As National Day and Mid-Autumn Festival fall on the same day this year, with the 7-day holiday for National Day, this is the most popular time for young couples to tie the knot. According to the reservations managers at the Beijing Hotel, Great Wall Hotel and many others, inquiries about wedding banquets for this period started coming in as early as May.

Up to now, the Great Wall Hotel and the Beijing Hotel have reserved several such banquets. October 2 and 6 are the most popular days for Chinese, and it is a little late for couples to start booking now. However, as there are more four-star and three-star hotels in Beijing, it may still be possible to book a wedding banquet in one of these. Wedding companies are also very busy over the holiday period. Zhao Xian, from the 'Purple House Wedding Company' told reporters that over 40 marriage celebrants have been reserved on October 1 and 2.



Zhou Jian, president of Tornado Sports Club, takes to the air

Photo by Zhang Jizhou

Extreme Blading

By Su Wei

"I like it. It allows me to develop my potential. It is extremely exciting!" says Leng Wen, a 17-year-old high school student and member of the Tornado Sports Club.

"Extreme sports", very popular in the U.S.A., are just beginning to take off in China, particularly among those in their late teens. In-line skating or roller-blading is one of the favorites for youths like Leng and his friends.

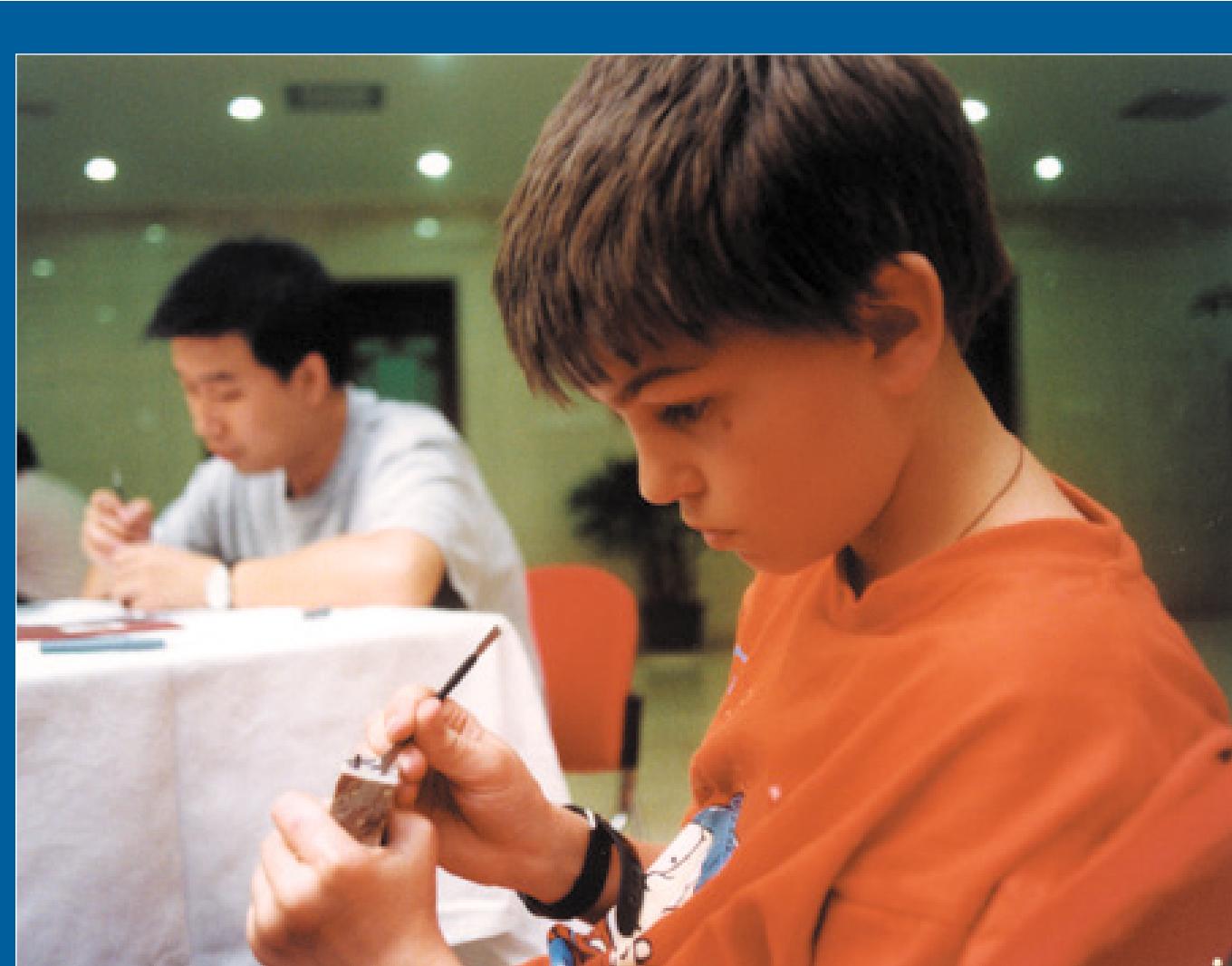
"I started about two years ago. One day as I was passing Tianyuan Lisheng Sports club, I saw a skating ramp and several boys my age skating on it. They invited me to have a go; I tried, and I was hooked!"

Zhang Yan, another member of the club, says they are often black and blue after skating practice. At first, some of the parents were reluctant to allow their kids to do it, believing that only 'problem children' played such sports. They were worried that their little angels might be corrupted by such activities. However now, most have accepted that it is just harmless fun.

Liu Yike, who has already graduated from senior high school, is a little luckier than some of the other club members. His parents are more open, in fact they encouraged Liu to do it. "It is a kind of self-challenge. My father says boys should be stronger in will, and that the sport would 'make a man of me'!"

Zhou Jian, the president of the club, is only 23 years old. He says apart from their Tornado Sports Club, there are only two other in-line skating clubs in Beijing. One of those is government sponsored and the other is quite small, with only a handful of members.

"We are like brothers and we cherish our friendship and the deep feeling between us. It is true that we live in a society, so we have to face all kinds of difficulties. Anyway, we have achieved a lot. Now, we have set up our own company and it is beginning to run. You will find that soon we will have our own training skating ramp".



Australian "dragon" carves "龙", the Chinese character for his name

Laowai Learn Seal Carving

By Ivy Zhang

"There are many dragons in the world. My son was born in Australia. So he is an Australian dragon." Yvonne May Guyas from South Africa, an English editor at CCTV, was talking as her son stamped the character for "dragon" on a scroll with his newly carved seal.

More than 30 "laowai" (foreigners) from Canada, the United States, South Africa, Malaysia, Yugoslavia, South Africa and Germany gathered at an old mansion near the Forbidden City on Sunday for a seal carving class by master seal-maker Hu Zhongliang.

Seals, or "chops" are small objects with the ends carved in relief or intaglio with personal or artistic names or designs. Organized by the Chinese Culture Club, a private non-profit organization dedicated to introducing traditional Chinese culture and customs to interested foreigners, the class learnt how to evaluate seals, the history of seals, the difference between western "chops" and Chinese seals and most importantly, how to hold the knife properly and carve a beautiful seal.

During the two-hour bilingual presentation, some participants could not wait to start work on their small rectangular piece of stone. The instructor had to speed up and emphasized the tricks of the trade. "Hold the knife like you do a pen, but

put your finger closer to the tip of the knife... While carving, turn the stone, not your hand... Always carve from bottom to top..."

Heads down, eyes fixed, everybody focused on their own piece of work. After many turning of hands and "Pooofs" to blow away the dust, characters were taking shape - "龙" (dragon), "梅" (plum), "中国2008" (China 2008), "Godwin", and many more.

When the carving was finished, each "apprentice" came to the front, dipped the carved end of stone into a small dish of thick red ink, and made their mark on the scroll and signed their names.

"It's great!" enthused a 25-year-old Canadian who teaches English in Beijing. "The class is informative and interesting. I had a lot fun as well. I'll come next week."

Future events sponsored by Chinese Culture Club include an introduction to traditional and modern Chinese weddings, Kung Fu and Tai Chi, acupuncture, water and ink painting, Chinese slang and street talk, Chinese folk songs and cricket-fighting.

For more information, call Feng Cheng on 13501035145 or email to Chinese_cultureclub@hotmail.com.

Photos by Zou Weilin



Comparing handiwork



Foreigners carve 'chops' under the watchful eye of a master seal carver



Photo by Huang Jianhua

Lotuses blooming again

With masses of pink flowers blossoming among the green lotus leaves this summer, Lotus Pond, near Beijing's West Railway Station, has regained its reputation as a place to enjoy such beautiful floral scenery.

Thousands of lotuses, over an area of 10,000 square meters were planted in Lotus Pond at the beginning of this spring. Now it's harvest time.

(By Chen Ying)

Learning Simultaneous Interpretation

By Yang Cheng

"It really gave me a battlefield feeling. It was worth the 8,000 yuan fee," said a 30-year-old simultaneous interpretation student who works in a joint venture.

Over the recent summer vacation, some Chinese universities and English training schools, such as Beijing Foreign Language Studies University and the New Oriental School, offered simultaneous interpretation training programs. The average fee was 3,500 yuan, although some courses cost as much as 8,000 yuan.

At the New Oriental School 190 students crammed into one classroom. Such a situation can usually only be seen in popular TOEFL and GRE preparation classes. Most of the students work in local joint venture companies.

"Simultaneous interpretation courses are booming markets in China," says Li Jian, a professional simultaneous interpreter who has interpreted for British Prime Minister Tony Blair and former South African president Nelson Mandela.

According to him, there is a big demand in Beijing now for simultaneous interpreters. A professional can earn US\$500-600 a day. "Some times we just translate for 10 minutes for some big international conferences, and we can still get US\$500-600." Li Jian added.



By Sun Ming

★ The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation has announced that policies concerning the requirements, examination and approval procedure and operating methods for foreign funds in domestic venture investment will be issued soon.

★ An international forum focusing on China and the World of the 21st century will be held in Beijing from September 10 to 12. Representatives of fifty countries from all around the world will attend the forum.

★ After investigating 70,000 cases of acupuncture treatment of illness, two British medical research groups announced that acupuncture is effective in stopping pain and easing mental strain. This ancient therapy has long been used in China for the treatment of a wide variety of illnesses.

★ The Universiade Athletes' Village is to become a boarding house for undergraduates. More than 10,000 students from 9 Beijing universities and colleges will move into the Village from October 10.

★ From August 28, Beijing citizens can compare prices on the Internet to determine whether hospitals have charged them the correct fee.

★ The largest chain store group in the world, Americas 7-11 Store, will open their first branch in Beijing next year.

★ 11 Chinese teachers will teach in Britain for a year of exchanging teaching. This is the first time Beijing teachers have taken part in such an academic exchange.

High-fliers

Students drop out to serve on planes

By Deng Xingjun / Wang Qiuping / Chen Ying

When 1,440 people applied for 10 male and 10 female flight attendant vacancies with Oriental Aviation Jiangsu in Nanjing, the story drew headlines in the Chinese media.

That's an admission rate of nearly 1 to 75, which, as some wags quickly pointed out, makes it more difficult than college entrance.

The interview also proved tougher than competitors' expectations. Interviewees underwent a qualifications check, eye tests, physical examinations, spoken Mandarin and English tests.

Among interviewees, 30 percent were undergraduates, according to Nanjing reporter Wang Qiuping.

Opinions follow:

Which is more important: a university diploma or a job as a flight attendant?

Liu Jie, sophomore, a normal university in Nanjing

For most people, the goal of going to college is to get a good job in the future. As my dream is to be a stewardess in an airplane flying from place to place on a high salary, why stick it out for the final diploma?

Yu Song, information management major, Nanjing University, won flight attendant job last year but turned it down

For my part, I think completing studies is the most important thing in one's life. A person can develop on the basis of the knowledge gleaned in his

or her major. I won a place last year as a senior student, but I never regretted giving up that chance. I still believe gold will shine through in the end. That is why I won admission again this year.

Ding Jiayong, professor, education department, Nanjing Normal University

It is a rare chance to be a flight attendant on an airplane, while it is more precious to own the opportunity of receiving higher education. Knowledge grows more important in our era. Knowledge is the power of life. I think a person really needn't worry about getting a good job if he or she possesses abundant professional knowledge.

Among interviewees, 30 percent were undergraduates, according to Nanjing reporter Wang Qiuping.

Opinions follow:

Flight attendant: a superior job to others?

Leng Jing, deputy manager, human resources department, Oriental Aviation Jiangsu

I witnessed how a simple girl from the North Jiangsu countryside became an elegant modern woman through a short professional training program. The employees really become more mature, more versatile. For instance, a flight attendant can become the lobby manager of a five-star hotel, but it doesn't work the other way round.

Plus the media and society itself have built up the occupation to seem so excellent in people's minds. Through TV commercials, the audience often sees the attendant as a kind of image ambassador. It's no doubt thousands of girls dream about becoming a flight attendant some day.



Candidates line up in the lobby of Shanshui Hotel in Nanjing

Photo by Qing Zixin

But it's really hard work. The girls must stand for more than 10 hours at a time. They not only stand there, but also smile and serve. And they must be enthusiastic every second during work time.

Kathleen Naday, tourism consultant

I fly all the time and they could certainly do with a bit more training on Chinese airlines. About 20 or 30 years ago to be a flight attendant was seen

in the West as a top-notch career but now people don't want to do it. Many young women would rather pursue another kind of career as it is perceived as just being a kind of glorified waitress in the sky. They call them "trolley dollies".

The airlines insist flight attendants are there primarily for passenger safety. Air rage is on the increase and these people need to know how to handle difficult situations. A good education is important, but I don't think you need a

college diploma to do it.

Shen Jia, professional consultant

It is right to pursue beauty. But there are many other ways outside of becoming a flight attendant. It is true a person can achieve a certain surface beauty through tedious training. But that doesn't mean that it can conceal an inner shallowness. It is silly to abandon study because these girls lose the most profound and important thing.

Blind confidence or dogged determination?

Chen Jian, deputy manager, human resource department, Nanjing Yunfeng Alcohol

I often meet young interviewees full of blind confidence. This confidence lacks wisdom and ability. It's just empty boldness. Thus it usually leaves a bad impression on the employer. They will never get the right position if they don't know how to get the actual knowledge and nurture their inner quality.

Flight attendant opportunities challenge the country's education system?

Zhao Zhongxin, professor, Beijing Normal University

If universities can adopt a study-credit system instead of a study-hour system, students can study and get a job. Since the study-hour system requires they stay on campus, it cultivates students' abilities at the expense of a valuable opportunity.

SOUND BITES

"The most important thing in my life is the decision. I believe once you make a decision and once you become determined and set up your objectives, it makes the rest of the things easier. For example right now, I pray for God to help us for our decisions and our determination and now our decision is that we cannot work with the Taliban. It is not important how much land we lose, how much we suffer. We know the enemy and our decision is to resist them."

—Ahmad Shah Masud, military commander of anti-Taliban forces, who has been fighting in Afghanistan since the 1980s, at his headquarters in Khwaja Bahauddin about 10 kilometers from the Tajikistan border

"Besides efforts by different countries, we need to increase international cooperation in environmental protection because (polluted) sea water flows without boundaries and (dirty) air comes without a visa."

—Li Ruihuan, Chairman of National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), meeting foreign delegates to the 21st Century Forum -- Forestry and Environmental Protection in Beijing on Tuesday

"It's time for the president to be straight with the American people — acknowledge realistically what the numbers are and where we're going with our economy. His tax plan isn't working, the economy is suffering and I think we are about to face a series of broken promises."

—Sen. Jon Corzine, Senate Democrat of New Jersey said when Democrats stepped up calls for President Bush to scrap his budget

By Xiao Rong / Chen Ying

World Cup Countdown

China soccer fans find faith after two big wins

By Chen Ying

Holland will not be going and Brazil might not make it. But China has more than a good chance. Two successful World Cup qualifiers have led to genuine speculation about tickets to South Korea and Japan. "We are so close to the World Cup," says coach Bora Milutinovic. Is he right?

Opinions follow:

Guo Feng, football fan

I feel the Chinese national team is making great progress. The whole thing is nicely set up. After these games, I think that the audience can rest easy for a while.

But it doesn't mean that there aren't any problems with the team. The players still

need to improve their professionalism. For instance, the team seemed to over-relax in the second half against United Arab Emirates. As professionals, they should stay at the top of their game from beginning to end, especially with millions watching.

Ji Yuyang, sports commentator

China has a nice start. But I worry the niceness comes so early, it might affect the games to come. It might have been better the team start more gradually.

Some national team players said they would rather play in foreign countries. The reason is very simple. The local fans pile on huge pressure. So after

winning two matches, the most important thing for the media and spectators is to cut down pressure on the national team.

Ed Jocelyn, England football fan

It's great China has won its games. I think China is the strongest in the group. The team is playing much better than in the qualifiers for the last World Cup, when, for example, they blew the game with Qatar 3-1 after leading 1-0. There is a really obvious change.

They should qualify for the World Cup if the team play to their potential. In the past, China often made silly mistakes in the important games,



Fans passed a flag at China's opening game in Shenyang, as China won 3-0 against United Arab Emirates. The message reads "dream comes true"

Photo by Goldman

perhaps because the management was bad and players didn't know what to do in a crisis. I believe that Milutinovic may change this situation.

Feichang 2002, soccer lover at Sina.com message board

China has made a good beginning. But success is built on more than a strong showing in a couple of games.

It is absolutely wrong to think things will all be smooth

sailing for the following games. Uzbekistan's physical qualities and competitive ability are not inferior to China. Qatar's defending and speed on the break can make trouble for China, as well as the high temperature in the United Arab Emirates. All of these are tough assignments that need addressing by the team.

Jeff Stone, Californian, AFT marketing consultant

As someone watching the

tournament and as someone involved in organizing the tournament and as someone who has spoken with many taxi drivers, I just hope that China can get the monkey off their back and win a group that they have the talent to win.

I think China made a huge mistake firing Bobby Houghton when they did, but Bora has inherited a team and a group that should no doubt qualify.



Games Bookkeeping Education?

How we use our computers

By Su Wei

A recent survey conducted among families who own computers in 10 major cities in China shows that games are the most commonly owned type of software, followed by education software and, a distant third, home finance software.

The survey was conducted by Horizon among 1,400 families in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Wuhan, Chengdu, Shenyang, Dalian, Xi'an, Zhengzhou, and Nanjing. The main findings of the survey can be summarized as follows:

* 95% of families surveyed own games, education, and/or household finance software.

* Of those, 82% own game software, and 72% own education software. Only 28% own household finance software.

* Of the respondents who plan to purchase software in the coming year, 70% said they would buy education software. 43% planned to buy game software, and 26% said they would buy household finance software.

High potential for educational software

Almost 60% of game software users and more than 60% of education and household finance software users say they intend to buy education software in the next 12 months.

The 36-45 age group are most

likely to purchase education software (more than 70%), however there is a growing demand for such software among the 46-55 and 26-35 age groups.

Tertiary educated young people, the main purchasers of game software

People aged 18-25 favoured the following categories of game software: role-playing (57%), strategy (53%), action/adventure (51%), net (41%), war (31%), and simulations (30%).

Generally speaking, those in the 18-25 age group preferred the faster action/adventure and role-playing games, while those in the 26-35 age group favored strategy type games.

In terms of educational background, action/adventure and net games are equally popular among the tertiary educated and those with high school education. However those with a higher education background are more likely to own or purchase war and strategy type games than those with high school education.

Internet savvy, well educated, high earners more likely to use household finance software

Home Internet access and familiarity with e-commerce has little influence on whether or

not respondents use game and education software. However these factors had a marked influence on whether or not the respondent used household finance software.

Among the interviewees with home access to the Internet, 32% have household finance software, compared with 20% among those who do not have access to the Internet at home. 30% of the interviewees who described themselves as being familiar with e-commerce have household finance software, 13% more than those who said they were unfamiliar with e-commerce.

Those with home Internet access and who are familiar with e-commerce tend to be well educated, comparatively young and earn a high income, and this is the group most likely to own household finance software.

Of those surveyed with a tertiary education, 32% have household finance software. In terms of age, the 26-35 age group are the most likely to own household finance software. The survey suggests that those who have embraced the digital age are more familiar with scientific and technological concepts, and are optimistic about developments in science, technology and the Internet.

Weekly Survey

By Wei Feng

Nearly 40% of Chinese Stockholders Never Refer to Stock Reviews

A recent survey reveals that 40% of Chinese stockholders never refer to stock reviews when buying or selling stocks. Three reasons were given as follows: 47% of stockholders believe stock reviews are not very clear, 31% believe they are not very accurate and 21% believe they are completely misguided.

According to the survey, only 13% of stockholders often refer to stock reviews, and 47% occasionally do so.

Discarded Pesticide Bottles Cause Environmental Hazard in Anhui Province

In a survey conducted by five middle school students from Anping township, Tong Ling County, Anhui province, it was found that local farmers dumped as many as 190,000 used pesticide bottles every year. Hence, they finished an investigation report on "Measures to prevent the abandoned pesticide bottles in Anping township".

In the 2,100 hectares mu of arable land on Jiangxin Island, there would be up to 192,000 abandoned pesticide bottles, 4,500 per square kilometer. In their investigation report, the students pointed out the harm caused by the improper disposal of the bottles, and suggested that pesticide containers be produced from paper or some other materials.

The problem has attracted the attention of the local government, and concerned departments are now trying to collect the abandoned bottles and dispose of them in an environmentally safe way. The report by the students was awarded second prize at the youngsters' biological and environmental practice of the province.

High Levels of Noxious Gases in 70% of New Buildings

A survey conducted in Beijing and Hangzhou on the air quality reveals the level of formaldehyde is up to ten times the standard level in 70% of new buildings.

Formaldehyde can cause rhinitis, bronchitis, conjunctivitis, and even cancer. Many office workers in such buildings complained of sore eyes and respiratory problems.

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BEIJING TODAY
今日北京

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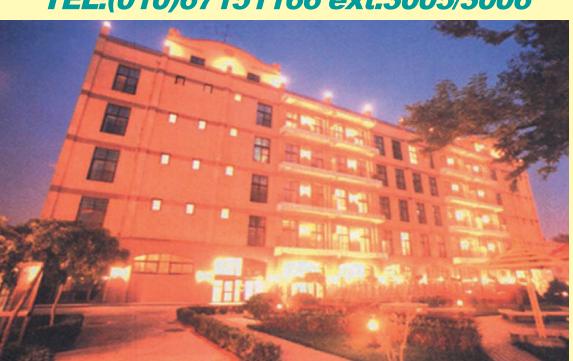
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The scene of crash

Photo provided by Hongkong Phoenix TV

Tragic Death of a Photographer

Shortly after midday on September 2, well-known aerial photographer and vice director of Hongkong Phoenix TV, Zhao Qunli was killed in a tragic accident, when the ultra-light aircraft he was piloting collided with high-tension electric wires. Zhao was on location in Zhejiang Province when the accident occurred, shooting footage for a Phoenix TV documentary, *Seeking the vanishing homestead*.

September 1
Phoenix TV production unit for *Seeking the vanishing homestead* arrives in Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province.

16:00
Zhao makes a field investigation to determine the flight route.

21:00
After dining with a local family, he returns to the base.

September 2
09:00
Two assistants begin assembling Zhao's "little bee" ultra-light aircraft by the roadside.

11:00
The aircraft is ready. Zhao makes a thorough examination and begins

testing the engine and video equipment.

11:30
Testing completed, Zhao expresses his satisfaction. Engine and two video cameras are all running smoothly.

11:45
Zhao takes off. Prior to his departure, he tells his colleagues that he will be back in one hour, after finishing shooting.

12:20
Accident occurs.

12:45
Unable to make radio contact with Zhao, staff at the production unit call Lingkeng village. They are told that Zhao finished shooting and left the village half an hour earlier.

13:00
People from Huangnan County report that a plane has fallen into water.

The entire production unit, along with Zhao's wife, drove to the site, where their worst fears were confirmed. When the plane was dragged from the water, the pilot was found dead, with his hands still gripping the controls.



Zhao Qunli and his ultralight "Little Bee" plane

Photo provided by Hongkong Phoenix TV

By Ivy Zhang

Zhao Qunli was born in 1950. He was the first "aerial journalist" in China and had been filming from ultra-light aircraft for some 20 years.

During the three-month production for the program *Running through sandstorm*, he and his team traveled tens of thousands of kilometers. As team leader, pilot, aerial photographer,

aircraft mechanic and auto driver, Zhao organized the low-altitude aerial film shoot across 10 provinces and 24 fixed locations.

Zhao shot more than 2,000 hours of footage over a period of 20 years, and set many records in both domestic television and aerial circles. The long documentary film *Deng Xiaoping* is a great example of his work. In 2000, he was awarded a prize for the "Most

Dedicated TV Professional in China".

As a little boy, Zhao was fascinated by flight. He once put together all his petty cash and bought an expensive *Aerial Magazine* imported from abroad. He also passed his dream on to his son, naming him Zhao Hang, meaning aerial flight.

Zhao never flinched in the face of danger. In 1996, during the shooting of *Deng Xiaoping*,

his plane was forced to land in a remote valley. Zhao repaired it himself and managed to take off again in a limited area of less than 200 square meters.

When the fatal accident occurred, Zhao was flying his "Bee 3C" ultra-light aircraft in the direction of an ancient village in Yongjia county, Wenzhou city to shoot scenic spots. The plane collided with a high-tension wire and fell into

the water reservoir below.

The program Zhao was working on when the accident occurred, *Seeking the vanishing homestead*, is a documentary aimed at raising awareness about the need to protect the cultural heritage of the villages and homesteads of rural China. Yongjia cultural zone in Wenzhou, Zhejiang province is one of the eight cultural zones covered in the series.

Zhao's tragic death is a great loss to China's aerial photography, as well as to the many people who know him. "Actually, Zhao took risks every time he shot films in air and he cared nothing about his safety. Thanks to his efforts, a great number of extraordinary TV scenes have been created and presented to TV viewers." The head of Hongkong Phoenix TV Station noted.

By Ivy Zhang

• Alzheimer's disease (AD) is the No. 4 killer in the USA. It's far more than a symbol of aging.

• Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson Epidemics Research shows that 7% of Beijingers aged 65 plus suffer from senile dementia, among whom 4% have Alzheimer's disease. It's estimated that there are 5 million senile dementia patients in China.

• AD patients need long-term caring and will impose a heavy burden on both their family and society.

Some people describe Alzheimer's disease (AD) as a "walking funeral". There are up to 12 million dementia patients world wide. In the United States, AD is the forth largest cause of death in adults. As yet, there is no cure or treatment.

Alzheimer's disease is an age-related and irreversible brain disorder that occurs gradually and results in memory loss, deterioration of intellectual function and loss of judgment.

The course of this disease varies from person to person, as does the rate of decline. On average, patients with AD live for 8 to 10 years after they are diagnosed, though the disease can last for up to 20 years.

AD is the most common cause of dementia among people aged 65 or older. Scientists estimate that up to four million people in the United States alone suffer from Alzheimer's disease.

China is not a low risk area for AD

What about China? Is China a low risk area? Is AD less common than vascular dementia (VaD)? Is there a limited geographic variation for AD prevalence?

Headed by Professor Zhang Zhenxin, Chief of Department



Tackling Alzheimers

of Clinical Epidemiology and professor of the Department of Neurology, Peking Union Medical College Hospital, a nation-wide AD prevalence survey was completed this year and yields new findings.

The study was conducted in 4 cities, namely Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai and Chengdu, with 109 medical professionals participating. A total of 37,461 people aged 55 and above were interviewed in 33 counties and districts.

The report revealed for the first time that China is not a low risk area for AD. There are more than three million senile dementia patients in China and the prevalence rate is close to that of European and American

countries.

Currently, there are 130 million people aged 60 and above, which accounts for 10% of the population in China. The percentage of people who have dementia is 3.4% for those above 55 years old and 5.3% for 65 and above respectively.

The study also revealed that the demographic, clinical, prognosis and epidemiological patterns of AD differed from VaD. AD was more common than VaD.

Prevalence rate of AD is higher than that of VaD despite the geographical variation - northern or southern, urban or rural areas.



Professor Zhang Zhenxin works on the AD research

Photo by Ivy Zhang



A farmer with AD can't recognize his family members.

Photo provided by Peking Union Medical College Hospital

Home for the lost to be established

It is estimated that the economic loss, both direct and indirect, caused by AD stands at USD 100 billion in the US. The long-term caring cost is USD 4,000 to 5,000 per month. In China, there are no accurate

figures. However, we can imagine that the greatest pressure shouldered by the family with AD patients is long-term care giving.

Professor Zhang told a story about a retired worker, who got lost on his way back home. He had no ID card or address on him. His family called the police and searched for him everywhere. Half a year later, he was found dead in a newly completed building. After the construction workers left, he stayed inside and later froze to death.

To address such problems, the Beijing Red Cross Association plans to set up a special "collecting post". Mr. Zhang, director of the Beijing Red Cross Association says they have designed a colorful badge for aged people, with their ID card number and a contact number on the back. If an old person gets lost or is confronted with an emergency, any citizen who wants to give a helping hand can dial 999 for assistance.

Once the call is received, the senior will be sent to hospital immediately, and his family will be notified at the same time.

Apart from dealing with emergencies, the Red Cross Organization will also bear the responsibilities of looking after the lost old people while they wait for their family members to collect them.

Care-giving for AD patients

Professor Zhang stressed that Alzheimer's disease has become a critical health problem in China and will impose great economic pressure on Chinese families and society in the 21st century.

In addition to medicine, long-term caring and patients' living quality are of great importance to those who are identified with AD.

From a social perspective, psychological consulting services, health-care education, as well as social guarantee systems need to be enhanced.

As for family members, special care needs to be given to patients, based on the level of severity.

For instance, a "familiar" family environment should be set up for people with AD in the early stages. Suggestions include putting important items of daily use in easily seen places, encouraging communication with friends and registering their names at the special agency designed to accommodate and seek the lost people.

For patients of medium degree who need more care and are at greater risk of getting lost in the street, drawers, rooms and electrical appliances need to be labeled; doors should be locked and alarm systems installed.

The most severe cases may need total care and usually require hospitalization. Communicating with those people using music and photos is recommended and efforts need to be made to alleviate their suffering.

By Hu Xiaoli

It was 3:30 in the afternoon. There were not many customers at that time in Popeyes, a fast food joint in Wangfujing Street, which uses the cartoon image of Popeye the Sailor as its theme. In the corner of the store, a TV was screening a Popeye cartoon, with the chuckling sailor munching happily away on spinach. Liu Guofeng, 19, wearing a timid expression and casual clothes, stood by the screen, watching and smiling silently. There was still some time before starting his shift as Popeye.

Half an hour later, Liu, submerged beneath a big Popeye mask and sailor's outfit, popped out of the locker room, and marched confidently out of the restaurant, waving merrily to passersby. "It's interesting to have two kinds of life," he said from behind the mask. Greeted by Popeye's funny and friendly wave, the expression of the passersby seemed softer on an otherwise very ordinary afternoon in Wangfujing.

Start by Sweeping the Floor

Popeye the Sailorman, with his muscles and spinach, is one of the most widely recognized and best-loved characters in the history of cartoons. "I liked this image very much, but never expected I would be a real Popeye in my life," confessed Liu.

After graduating from a professional architectural school, Liu went to a construction site with great expectations of finding a good job in the field of architecture. But he was declined due to a lack of qualifications and experience. He stayed at home for a month, thinking about his future.

One day Liu accidentally passed by Popeyes on Wangfujing Street where a job ad caught his attention. "I stepped in out of curiosity, besides, I needed a job." That was also the first time he noticed a person dressed up as Popeye standing outside the store, which he remembered thinking was funny. Liu first accepted a job as a shift worker. During his first week, the main assignment was cleaning. "You had to clean everything you could think of in the store. I had never done that kind of work before," he recalled.

After a week, Liu, along with 5 other new workers, was asked to take the place of the regular Popeye, who was often sick during that time. "I thought it was a temporary assignment, and didn't expect I could do it for a whole year," he said, not forgetting to greet a passerby. A little girl stood to one side, gazing at him curiously from behind her mother, but seeming shy to go forward. On seeing her, Liu bounded over, squat down and shook hands with her like a clown. Her shyness melting, the little girl giggled loudly.

Who Am I?

"I was excited to touch the Popeye outfit the first time," Liu continued. But things soon lost their rosy appearance. In fact, as soon as he placed the mask over his head, he began to have second thoughts. Popeye's mask was thick and stuffy. "I couldn't even breathe properly with the mask at first," he said, pointing at his head, where there are only three holes to let in air. Nevertheless, the torture was just beginning. When he finally dressed up in the stuffy mask and thick outfit, and stood outside the store under the fierce summer sun, he thought every one was looking at him and laughing. When children walked over, hoping to play with him, he didn't know what to do, but just stood there, transfixed. "Who am I?" the boy asked himself pain-takingly. He felt he was like a clown. "I couldn't find myself; I was not Liu Guofeng, nor was I Popeye the Sailor," he recalled. On that hot summer day, Liu felt like a year went by before he could go back to the locker room.

The second day and third day passed, and the situation seemed to get no better. On the fourth day, still under a shadow of gloom, Liu stood on the street, trying his best to greet people. Suddenly he heard a small voice beside him. "Uncle Popeye, can you hug me for a while. I hope you can pass your strength on to me", a little boy about three asked seriously. Liu picked him up and said hello. The little boy chortled hysterically, absolutely thrilled. Liu listened and, in one tiny but definite flash of awareness, thought he may like this job.

Touching Lives

Now a year has past, and Liu is still dressing up as Popeye every day. Speaking of the reason he carried on this job for such a long time, he explained gleefully, "I didn't think my job could bring so much happiness and power

to strangers, which made me feel fulfilled." He emotionally related the story of an old couple he met while working.

There was a certain period when Popeye Liu frequently saw a foreign couple passing by Popeyes. An old man would push his wife past the restaurant in a wheelchair. Every time they passed by, they would stop to play jokes on Liu, touching his outfit or tickling him in the ribs. Liu soon came to greet and hug them whenever they passed by. "The old lady chuckled like a little girl when she saw me," he said. But then, they didn't show up for a month; Liu was a little disappointed about their absence. After a long time, however, Liu got a card from Germany. He opened it and a sketch emerged before his eyes: an old lady sitting in a wheelchair and an old man standing to one side. That was the old couple. He cried on instinct. It said in the card, "We love Beijing. We love you Popeye. Thanks for the great happiness you brought to us two old people." Liu was deeply moved by these words. "I still keep the card," he said emotionally. Liu often gets this kind of surprise when working. Sometimes little gifts, sometimes just a friendly smile. "But that is the power that keeps me doing this job."

Once, on a bleak February afternoon, Liu stood as usual outside the restaurant, waving to passersby, hugging kids and taking photos with tourists. A young woman in an airline uniform marched out of Popeye's,

handed him a note and hurried away. This woman had sat in the store the whole afternoon. Liu remembered that little detail. He read the note curiously. "I had words with my superintendent and left without asking for leave. I felt very frustrated. But when I sat in the store, looking through the window at you cheerfully greeting strangers, I felt it would not be that difficult to communicate with people. I am affected by your optimistic attitude. I feel much better now. Hope you are as optimistic as Popeye when taking off the mask." Liu can still clearly remember the lines of the note.

"I felt I was like a real Popeye, who is optimistic and powerful and can bring people happiness and strength," he laughed from behind the mask.

I Am What I Am

It was 10 in the evening.

The day's work was done. Liu went back to the locker room, and changed into his casual clothes. The sweat beaded across his brow and his face looked pale after such a long time in the stuffy mask. "It is not an easy job." He seemed a little tired after 6 hour's work. Without the mask and outfit, Liu looked thinner and quieter.

According to Liu Lei, a workmate and friend of Liu, not every one can endure the hardships of this job. In summer it is too hot to wear the thick Popeye costume, while in winter, it is freezing to stand outside. Liu's parents never come to see him, for they are worried they will feel great sadness seeing their beloved son doing this hard job.

But speaking of the toughest moments in the job, he said late evening when there were not many people on the street was the worst: he had to kill time by looking at the nylon lights flashing on the opposite buildings.

As a deeply introverted boy, his friends still feel surprised that he can do this job, for dressing up as Popeye needs a very active and extrovert personality. Liu confessed that he was sometimes torn between the two roles. He feels he is living two kinds of lives.

"But any kind of life is OK," he said, "as long as I have learned how to communicate with people and try to be optimistic about life, just like the Popeye in the cartoon."

Now, Liu is preparing for the college entrance examination. "I plan to study further, especially English," he said with a longing sparkle in his eyes. "Then, I can communicate with more people freely."

"People are not as hard as we thought to communicate with, even if some individuals look pretty nasty. If you smile at others, you will get a lot of smiles back." Liu looked out of the window, smiling like a child.



I'm Popeye The Sailorman



① He chats cheerfully with passersby.



③ He prepares for the college entrance exam.



② He plays happily with a little child.
④ Wear just before the mask goes on.

Photos by Zhuang Jian

Paintings Flow Back to Chinese Mainland



Figures by Cheng Shifa
This painting from a Singaporean collector is on display at Haiwangcun Gallery

By Miao Yajie

With the rapid development of China's economy, works of art nowadays are becoming more and more sought after. The fine arts market is considered as the third largest market worth investment after negotiable securities and real estate. Since the first art auction company was established in the early 1990's on the Chinese mainland, the fine arts market has experienced dramatic changes following the leaps and bounds of the economy. Meanwhile, in less than ten years, the market, specifically the traditional Chinese paintings and calligraphy market, has also formed its own logic. The large-scale backflow of works from overseas to the Chinese mainland has become without doubt a focus of the art world for two or three years.

The involvement of overseas buyers in the mainland's market started very early, possibly dating back at least 20 years. The Chinese mainland had just begun opening up to the outside world, so all the country's attention was focused on the development of the economy. Works of art as an accessory of life were left no room for consideration. Many far-sighted collectors from overseas came to the mainland again and again in search of antiques and paintings. They bought home excellent articles at incredibly low prices compared with the levels of today's market.

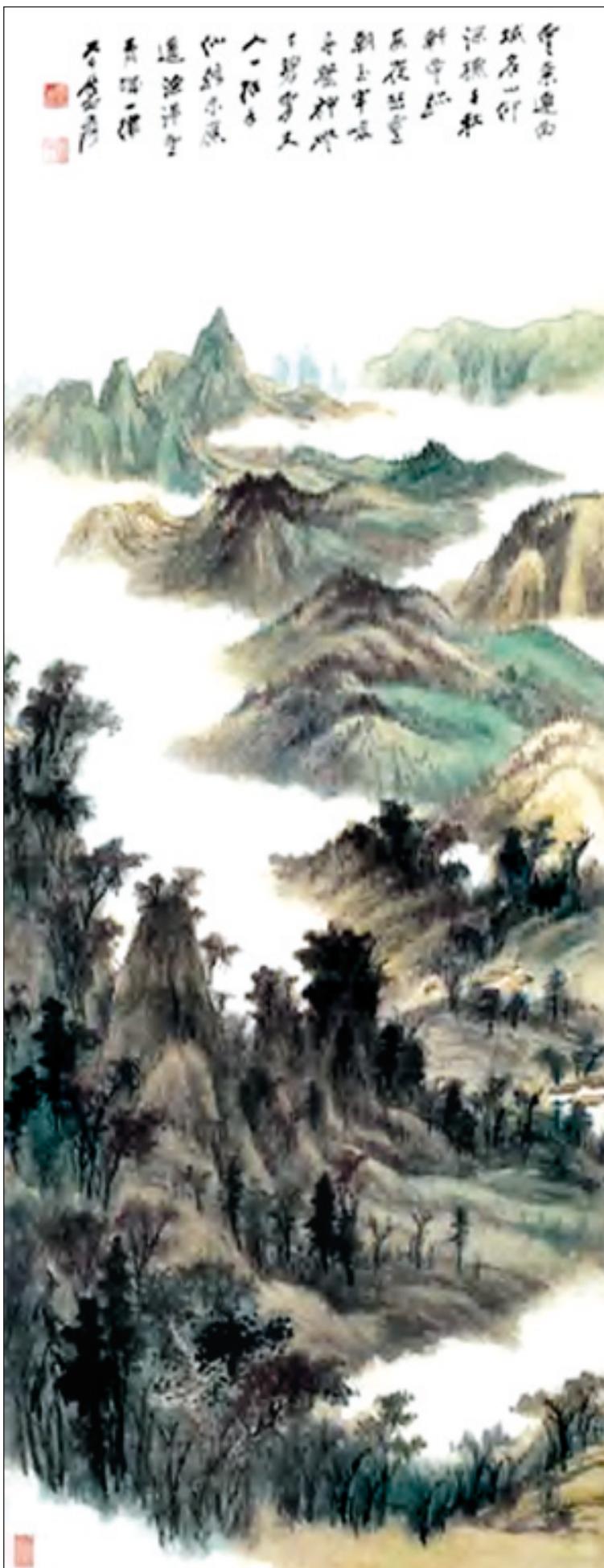
Hong Kong and Taiwan have

been the center for Chinese works of art in Asia, even the world, for a long time. However, with the development of the Chinese mainland across a range of sectors, the emergence of leading auction companies, and the maturity of mainland buyers, the Hong Kong-Taiwan nexus looks like it will soon be undermined. The backflow of works of art occurred against such a backdrop.

According to Wang Chunfu, deputy general manager of Beijing's Hanhai Art Auction Corp., it takes time for private collectors to grow up. Most of the collectors in Hong Kong and Taiwan have been in the business for many years, and now are selectively bringing some of their collections to the mainland market. One reason is that their artistic judgment has improved; another is that the mainland fine arts market is flourishing at present. Wang worked in Hong Kong's fine arts circles for six years, and so understands the markets of both.

"Antiques as a whole, or say particularly traditional Chinese paintings and calligraphy, which appear in the Hong Kong market are high standard, high value pieces with high prices, whereas medium standard or frequently seen articles are not high in price. Meanwhile, medium standard paintings are in great demand in the mainland market, and the price for those paintings is relatively higher here than in Hong Kong," explained Wang Chunfu.

Overseas collectors have participated in Hanhai's auction since the establishment of the company in 1994. At first they sent over a few pieces to auction, and bought what they liked at Hanhai, then they realized the potential of the market and brought more of their collections back to Beijing. While Hong Kong and Taiwan were hit by the Asian Economic Crisis in 1997, the mainland market's new born energy came into play at just the right time. Collectors from both regions began to bring their best collections back to the mainland market. "Leading auction companies in Beijing and Shanghai, such as Hanhai,



Autumn at Qingcheng by Zhang Daqian
This painting from a Hong Kong collector sold at a purchase price of 66,000 yuan at the spring auction of Hanhai Art Auction Corp.

Guardian, and Duo Yun Xuan all held special auctions for works flowing back from overseas. And the volume of business was good, both buyers and sellers were satisfied," said Wang.

Moreover, according to Wang, as mainland collectors grew up rapidly, their appreciation levels and abundant capital in art investment both grew stunningly. Over two thirds of business was done with domestic buyers, compared with some five years ago when a similar figure referred to overseas buyers.

The backflow of paintings has not only made itself felt at auctions, but also in the operation of private galleries. An on-going exhibition of backflow paintings at Beijing's Haiwangcun Gallery is a good example of the trend. The exhibition is jointly sponsored by Hong Kong Rongbaozhai, Hong Kong Jiguzhai and Haiwangcun galleries. Works provided by the two Hong Kong galleries are connected to some of the most renowned contemporary names such as Zhang Daqian, Qi Baishi, Huang BinHong, Wang Xuetao, Huang Zhou. According to Zheng Guangyi, manager of Haiwangcun Gallery, it's quite natural that these works, bought by the overseas collectors five to twenty years ago, reappear in the domestic market. "The market adjusts itself," says Zheng.

As for art lovers, investors, and collectors, there is always an obstacle in buying traditional Chinese painting, namely, fakes. Since acquiring the knowledge to authenticate takes time, investing in paintings marked with "Real" is obviously a smart choice. Overseas backflow paintings therefore become a convincing brand of authentic paintings, due to the popularity of the collector, and the overall level of their collections.

"We know the two Hong Kong galleries quite well, they've been in the business for many years. Some of the paintings were bought from the painter directly, some were bought in the 1980's, when fakes were less common, and most importantly, the paintings are of a good artistic standard and are fairly priced. Buyers come to purchase



Geese by Xu Beihong
This painting from a Singaporean collector sold at a purchase price of 1.925 million yuan at the spring auction of Hanhai Art Auction Corp.

paintings at our gallery because they trust the authentication of the two Hong Kong galleries, as well as Haiwangcun," Zheng said.

The backflow of paintings as well as other antiques stimulates the current art market on the Chinese mainland. However, it's still too early to say that the center of the Chinese art market has moved to Beijing. As for the backflows, the fact is that the majority of the works are from Southeast Asia such as Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore. There are lots of antiques scattered in places like Japan, Europe and the United States; returning works of art are rare from these areas since communications between dealers have not yet been fully established.

The volume of business in the domestic market is increasing annually, with most bids at medium and low prices compared with the overseas market. There are more and more collectors with some hundred millions of yuan of assets for collection, but compared with overseas collectors, what they lack is not only money, but also the systematic concept of collecting.

More and more antiques flowing back to, or coming into China confirms a widely held perception that in a few years, the Chinese mainland will definitely be the main market for Chinese art.

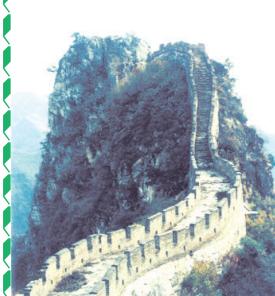
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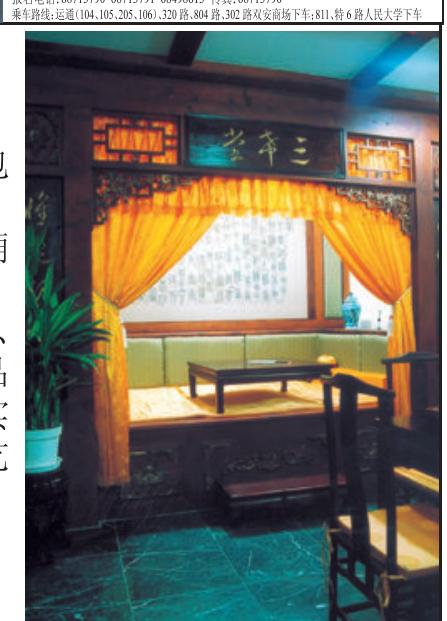
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A BOOK OF SINS

"If you compare writing to undressing, then, after undressing, I will show my wounds instead of my breast, and tell them these wounds are the results of my own sin first, then the sin of others."

—Jiudan



CROW REFER TO WOMAN?

Question: Does the Crow Only Refer to Woman?

Jiudan: Now I'd like to hear your own opinion on your own book. The reason I named my book Crow is not that I compare woman to the crow, but that I saw great flocks of crows over the beach in Singapore, also in such season, and I was so deeply touched by their flying movement, their bearing and the picture of their joining with the ocean that I have kept the scene in my mind firmly. It seems the crow does not have a good image in people's mind, but people's understanding of the world seems to be such: whether man or woman, they have their own sins. If you compare the crow to an adult, it absolutely does not only refer to woman, but also includes man, including the whole of mankind, and that is just my view on the crow. Why have I called the book Crow? Just as I have remarked, it was because I was moved by such a detail: the crows hovering over the sea.

SINS

Question: You have just mentioned sin, then, how do you understand this word?

Jiudan: It can be said that Crow is just a book on sin. Sin exists just because of the existence of human beings. Man, because of his inborn weakness, so long as he exists, will hurt society or others, whether you admit it or not; so long as you are struggling and shedding tears for your own interests, you are already constituting harm to other people, and that is the sin you have committed. As for the women

in my book, are they the worst females? Can you say that they are worse than your sisters or other women familiar to you? No, women are just women. In order to make a living and to lead a better life, they form their ideal, and such an ideal becomes a burden on their back, gradually the burden turns into the sin on their back, becoming the crucifix on their body that can never be got rid of.

MY OWN EXPERIENCES?

Question: The book Crow deals about the experiences of a group of Chinese women in Singapore. A Chinese girl took a fancy for a Singaporean man, then she went in and out of all kinds of nightclubs, at last she killed the Singaporean man on the beach. I know you have just come back from Singapore, so I'd like to ask you: are most of the stories real experiences of your own?

Jiudan: Someone has written a book and it can touch the reader, can you say it is completely the person's own experiences? The answer is a definite "No". The reason is this: if she writes this book completely using her own experiences, she will never become poetic, and never indulge herself in a very complicated emotion. However, if you say the writer has no personal taste, no experiencing, no observation, analysis or even memory at all, then, it will be impossible for her to turn out such a work, thus, what the writer expresses in her writing is her own tasting, but not her own experiences. I beg my readership to remember this point forever.

WHO IS USING HER BODY TO WRITE?

Question: This work of yours has touched sex in many parts, and you are very bold in the description of sex, too, are you also like those women who advertise themselves to be writers writing with their bodies?

Jiudan: What is "writing with the body"? Does that mean you write out the details of your sleeping with a man after sleeping with him, then get it published by another man called "editor" whom you have also lain with? Is that called "writing with the body"? If what you said about "writing with the body" refers to such a thing, then, I'll tell you, 'no', absolutely no. Yet, if "writing with the body" refers to experiencing and tasting life using your body and life, then expressing the most essential and realistic by means of literature, then, I am.

But, there are still people asking me such a question and I still have to answer such a question now, I feel both sides sound somewhat foolish.

As for the sex descriptions in my book, I don't want to say more, for the reader may naturally form his own opinion after reading. I was advised to delete the sex descriptions after reading my first draft, saying such a work is not Lolita, nor Lady Chatterley's Lover, but a serious and profound one, with no need to rely on such things to attract readers. I don't think this advice is right, for I did not depend on sex for pleasing my readers. Sex is a part of true-life, so I have no way of avoiding it.



Chapter One of Crow

By Jiudan

Singapore has no winter, but has a monsoon season like many other places. The rain was drizzling, like many little mouths talking, like her standing by the sea that day. She was strolling and speaking slowly, her voice in the rain being like a vibrant streamer. When she uttered such words, she couldn't help crying.

"Do you know? The Singaporeans call us women from China 'Xiaolongnu' (female dragonet). What is a female dragonet? It means prostitute." But I think, so long as I can become rich and change my status so as to remain here, who cares what people call us?

"... Alas, just when some females have realized their dream, becoming rich or becoming Singaporeans' wives, others will forget that they used to be called 'Xiaolongnu'. By and by, even they themselves come to think they are no longer in that position."

Turning around to gaze at me, she added: "I just want to be such a female, you won't laugh at me?"

Grasping her cold hand, I told her I was the same as she: even if I used to be a Xiaolongnu, I won't care how people call me at all.

Now the monsoon has come around again, but her figure can never be seen at the seaside. No one knows where she has gone. Someone says she can go nowhere but back to China. Then, in a corner of some city in China, does she still remember the voice lost in the monsoon? And her cry, and my hand taking a fast hold of hers.

Some people say women like us are the worst and most evil in the world. Yes, sure enough, who else is worse than us? We differ from you, from all of you. We are too bad. Why have some women deteriorated? Because of the pressure of society, and because of a living. They are naturally good women, but we are abandoned women from birth. Sometimes we also want to say it is because of this society that we have gone downhill, but anyway we can't utter such words, just feel shy to say so. We are just innate bad women, but bad women like us are longing to have all the flowers blooming for us, we are yearning for that every day and every night, even if a single flower, red, yellow, white, blue, or...

In reality, no flower in the world will bloom for us.

We did not realize so at that time.

One autumn morning three years ago, at Beijing Telegraph Office, I held the phone, nervously telling my middleman named Zhou that I would arrive at ten that night. He asked me which airline I was flying with, and I said I did not know. How can I go to meet you if you do not know that? ... His voice was extremely cold, just like the small grass covered by frost in winter.

I had nothing to say, and wanted to rout up the ticket to have a look, but unexpectedly the bag was an inferior product, the zip had seized up. Then, aware that it was a costly international long distance call, I dropped the telephone hurriedly. Stepping outdoors, I felt miserable to death. Really, I did not even know which airline. But, what if he did not come to meet me? There, not only did I have no acquaintance, but did not have much money, either, even dreaming at night I saw myself lingering by a hotel in tears.

Looking into the blue sky, I had to start off, carrying my red suitcase.

All the way, I did not turn around. I knew my past was a plate of leftovers; there was nothing to be reluctant to part with, even till this day after the three years I still think so...

Translated by Zhang Wei

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Absurd Comedy Brings Lu Xun to Life

By Xiao Li

Red lanterns meaning happy events and white ones referring to death absurdly hang together above the stage, ghosts and people appear alternately in the show. An absurd comedy, *Wuchang, Nüdiao* is being staged at the Mini theatre of Beijing People's Art Theatre from August 28 to October 5.

Wuchang and *Nüdiao* are two funny ghosts in the stories of Lu Xun, a literary giant in modern history. Moreover, the whole dra-

ma boldly blends several characters of Lu Xun's 6 stories and creates new art images via the form of absurd comedy.

The Director Wang Yansong believes that only the form of absurd comedy can approach Lu Xun's writing spirit. According to him, this form is not the western symbolic absurd theatre, but a high unity with the spirit of the works. In this drama, *Nüdiao*, a female ghost, ridiculously recites the line "living is the first thing," which drew laughter from

the audience, but at the same time aroused their deep reflection on life. That is also Lu Xun's style: to find the meaning of life in an absurd atmosphere, to meditate after laughter.

The writer Zheng Tianwei and director of *Wuchang, Nüdiao*, use their own drama language to approach the spirit of the original work, rather than simply retell the work or neglect it completely. Under the absurd scenes and plot, the audience, however, shared the same deep spirit of Lu Xun after 50 years.

By Hu Xiaoli

As Hollywood horror films continuously arouse screams from Chinese audiences, Chinese director Agan is the first to break the silence by presenting the first homemade horror film this month. The name of the film is *Shanling Ferocious* (*Shanling Xiongmeng*), which has been dubbed a Chinese *Scream*.

Shanling, a giant wild animal in the forest, can bring luck to people as long as they live harmoniously with it. One day, five young people go into the forest, and only one comes out alive. That is basically the story.

On the preview in Beijing, the audience seemed to relax during the first 15 minutes, but suddenly burst into bone breaking screams, simultaneously forced to the farthest retreat of their seats. Then the screams echoed round the cinema from time to time.

According to Agan, it is not only by the plot and atmosphere, but also by suspense that *Shanling Ferocious* arouses large-scale horror in the cinema. Only suspense can arouse strong expectation and excitement throughout the audience: Hitchcock was the early master of this secret in filmmaking.

Horror films and comedies are Agan's favorite film styles. He believes filmmakers should bring more excitement to the audience rather than simply delivering a sermon.

Horror films, which are said to be able to release inner terrors and anxiety, seem to be attracting more and more young people today. As Agan said, *Shanling Ferocious* is coming, so a new peal of screams will surely ring out in the cinemas.



La Traviata Back in Beijing

By Xiao Li

Giuseppe Verdi's *La Traviata*, a perennial favorite in opera circles, stands not only as a treasure of Italy, but also as an opera classic of the world. In order to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of this great Italian composer, the China National Opera House and Italian artists co-performed this new production of *La Traviata*. It played from August 28 to 30 in the Poly Theatre.

The cast was made of not only excellent singers, but very good actors as well. These singers acted their roles with all their hearts, which added immeasurably to the audience's enjoyment of the production.

Yao Hong, a well-known soprano in China, was outstanding in the title role. Not only did she have a full, rich and vibrant voice that encompasses a wide range, but her acting in the later scenes really tore at one's heart strings. The closing death scene had some of the audience dabbing at its eyes.

Tenor, Yin Xi Zhen (specially invited from Korea), in the role of her immature lover, Alfredo Germont, was also impressive.

Directed this time by Italian director Gianfranco de Bosio, and performed by Asian artists, the production presented Chinese audiences with the power of *La Traviata*, the epic of love and destiny.



Photo by Zhuang Jian

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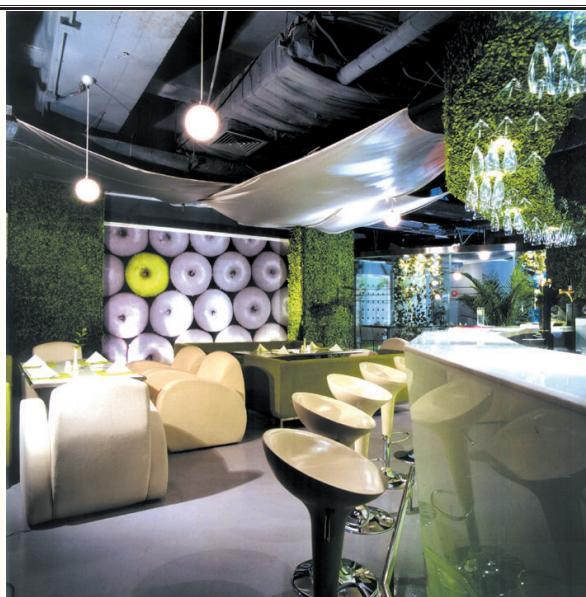
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Long Life Porridge

By Wenlong

The famous Song Dynasty poet Lu You (陆游) (1125-1210) wrote "the only way to achieve everlasting life is by eating porridge". Believe it or not, Lu You lived to the age of 85, although he suffered a lot, as a result of war and a tragic love affair. And he never made much money. So I firmly believe that eating porridge prolonged his life. With this in mind, I sought out the most renowned porridge establishment in Beijing - the



Hongzhuangyuan (鸿庄园) porridge

The three-story restaurant has quite an elegant appearance, however I wasn't there to admire the decorations. I scanned the menu and ordered the restaurant's premium porridge - Zhuangyuan porridge (only five yuan!). My order appeared before long, a bowl of clear, steaming glutinous-rice porridge with sunflower seeds, peanuts, sesame seeds, walnuts, and pine nuts.

I scoffed it down in under 10 minutes, a dish the chefs had cooked for more than two hours. Including the time spent selecting the dried fruits and the rice, the whole process of porridge making might have taken four or five hours. I almost felt guilty about gobbling it down so quickly!

There are 18 kinds of porridge on the menu, and for the hot summer, there are also some special chilled varieties. The four kinds of chilled porridge available feature watermelon, pineapple, almond and lotus leaves. They are all said to be effective in warding off heatstroke.

The staff have just started taking English training courses, in preparation for the 2008 Olympics and an anticipated influx of non-Chinese speaking porridge lovers, but for now, non-Chinese speakers should perhaps take an interpreter along, to help you choose the one that will most effectively prolong your life.

Where: 24 Zhanlanguanlu (展览馆路), Xicheng District, bus 15, 65, 708, 716, 814 to Baiwanzhuan Dongkou (百万庄路). **Open:** 10am-0:30am. **Tel:** 68360494 / 68369013.

What's your favorite shop or stand? We will be very happy to share your experience with all our readers and don't forget, a mystery gift is waiting for you if we print your story. Please contact us at 65902522 or 13910916642. Email: jianrong@ynet.com.

Photo by Cui Jun



Photo by Cui Jun

OZONE COLLECTION

By Jiao Pei

"Welcome to our shop!" Says a very cute toy penguin as you step into Ozone Collection. Looking around, you will certainly fall in love with many of the gifts on sale here. Ozone Collection is a newly opened shop in Wangfujing specializing in cartoon toys that can talk, sing, play music, and emit colored light. They are all environmentally friendly, being made entirely of non-toxic, harmless materials.

The products are all designed overseas and manufactured locally, and come in many types and shapes and sizes. There are toys that react to sound, such as when your mobile phone rings, storage containers that can "speak", devices that greet you when you enter a room and

say goodbye when you leave, remote-controlled electric fans, in the shapes of animals or cartoon people, and so on. You can record a message in one of these cute animals and when you, or anyone else, walk past, it will talk to you.

This is definitely not a shop just for kids. Adults will find many of these toys quite irresistible, either as a present for yourself or a friend. The prices are very reasonable, with most items costing less than 100 yuan.

Add: 28 Dong'anmen Dajie (东安门大街), Dongcheng District, next to Hong Kong Food City.

Open: Mon-Thur, 10:30am-9:30pm. Fri-Sun, 10am-10:30pm.

Tel: 65265256.

Affordable Fashion

By Li Dan

Many foreigners living in Beijing complain that it is so difficult to find good quality traditional style Chinese clothing, with a slightly modern flavor, at a reasonable price! Those displayed in the windows of fashionable boutiques are usually extremely expensive, so where to find something that is affordable, but distinctive and original? If this is a problem you can identify with, then Ayou, a young and energetic fashion brand with an outlet at Fuxingmen is well worth investigating.

Traditional products always seem to find an international market. This little store attracts a lot of attention for its clothes that feature a modern interpretation of traditional Chinese features and patterns. Most of the clothes are in a traditional Chinese style; some are designed like a combination of shirt and qipao (cheongsam) with a high neck and closed collar, some feature a buttoned waist, like a Tai Chi outfit. More attractively, most of the dresses adopt in some way patterns based on Shaanxi folk paper-cuts and primitive totems, often on one shoulder or the lower hem of the dress. Of course the dominant colors are red and black. All the Ayou dresses are made of cotton and create an impression of simple and quiet charm.

The designers pursue a combination of simplicity, traditional Chinese dress style and modern design, and the owner says their customers tend to be well educated with up-market taste. You will no doubt turn a few heads if you walk down the street wearing something from Ayou. Most of the clothes range in price from 150-350 yuan. **Add:** 7D, Fuxingmenwai Dajie (复兴门外大街), 1, 4, 5, 57 or subway to Nanhishu (南礼士路), walk west 500m. **Open:** 9am-8pm. **Tel:** 68021121.

Magic tricks and treats



By Wang Dandan

Budding David Copperfields, would-be conjurers or those just looking to give their friends a fright will all find something fun at the newly opened Lanti Magic Store. Ti Yueli, the owner of the store stands behind a counter showing off his various magic ware, and you might be forgiven for thinking

you've wandered into a theatre, rather than a shop.

Ti displays a wallet. He opens it and flames leap out. "Wow", he exclaims, "this money is really hot" (Ok, he's a magician, not a comedian). He closes the wallet and opens it again, revealing it is just an ordinary wallet with credit cards and cash inside. Now how did he do that? Unlike your average magician, Ti is happy to give away the secrets of the trade.

The trick wallet (100% pure leather!) has not one, but two compartments. One for opening up in front of an unsuspecting audience, and saying, "Look! Just an ordinary wallet." and one with a concealed incendiary device.

Before the performance, the magician pours a little flammable liquid onto the special absorbent pad, not too much, and then as he or she flips open the wallet, spins the ignition mechanism, and Hey Presto! Great balls of fire!

For those who are after something perhaps a little less flamboyant, there are also trick cards for sale. In fact there are more than one hundred different kinds of magic tricks for sale, some imported, some produced locally. And if you don't want to buy anything, you might just like to go along and see Ti reveal a few more trade secrets.

Add: Beside Erqi Juchang (二七剧场), Xicheng District, bus 1, 4, 57 or subway to Nanhishu (南礼士路), walk west 500m.

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Photos by Chen Shuyi



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Renting in the east

East Third Ring Road

By Wang Dandan

Today, we look at apartment prices around the east Third Ring Road, from the Sanyuanqiao in the north to the Fenzhongsi in the south.

Sanyuanqiao to Changhongqiao

Prices around this area range from about 1,300 yuan for a simply-decorated, fully furnished one-room apartment to 1,700 yuan for two room and 2,100 yuan for three room. More elaborately decorated apartments might cost between 1,500 and 1,600 yuan for one room, up to 2,000 yuan for two rooms.

Apartments close to the Lufthansa Center and Sanlitun Bar Street are likely to be more expensive than the above mentioned; i.e. 1,500 yuan for a one room apartment with simple decoration and full facilities, 1,800 yuan for two room and 2,200 yuan for three room.

It is a good area to live, in terms of entertainment and shopping. Also, proximity to the Embassy area means security is quite good.

Changhongqiao to Guomaoqiao

This is a relatively expensive area. A simply decorated, fully furnished one room apartment costs around 1,500 yuan, two room, 1,800 yuan and three room 2,400 to 2,600 yuan. Better quality apartments cost 1,700 yuan (one room) and 1,900 yuan (two rooms).

As there are many office buildings nearby, it is very convenient for working people. However, if you have a car, traffic can be a problem, particularly around Changhongqiao, Guanghua crossroad and Guomaoqiao. This area is also convenient for shopping and entertainment facilities.

Guomaoqiao to Shuangjingqiao

The average price for one room with simple decoration and full facilities is 1,400 yuan, two room 1,600 yuan and three room 2,000 yuan. It is near the subway and Chang'an Avenue, so transportation is convenient.

Shuangjingqiao to Jinsongqiao

One room apartment costs around 1,100 yuan, two room 1,500 yuan and three room 1,800 yuan. Convenient for shopping, with a wide choice of supermarkets nearby. Traffic tends not to get as congested here as it does further north.

Jinsongqiao to Panjiayuan Qiao

The average price for one room with simple decoration and full facilities is 1,000 yuan, two room 1,300 yuan and three room 1,500 yuan. Close to Panjiayuan flea market, so plenty to do on weekends!

Guest **Target: Hilton Beijing**
Quiz **When: 18:30-19:50, Monday, September 1st**
Hotel Detective: Wang Dandan

Mugisa Era, Uganda

Every thing is going well here in the hotel. What I like most is the ice cream! The strawberry ice cream served in Louisiana restaurant is very fresh.

It could be better if they display the calorie content, or just make some low-calorie ice cream. I know some of the hotels do that.

Josefa Sulalua, Fiji

I am allergic to bed sheets away from home. But this one is OK. I get used to these sheets and I asked the staff not to change them. They just come every day to make the bed. The people here are too good, too friendly.

One morning I went to the restaurant and ordered fried eggs, the cook ask me if I wanted my eggs cooked soft or hard. I was reading a newspaper and didn't want to talk. But when I look up, I saw the cook still standing there with an egg in his hand, obviously, he was waiting for my answer!

Thomas Rinder, Austria

I am new to Beijing and I made several inquiry phone calls to hotels. The Hilton was very quick answering the calls, both the operator and reservations. I have a strong accent when I speak English, but they tried to understand me, even guessed what I said.

Beijing Hotel

By Wang Dandan

The Zhaolong International Youth Hostel was built in accordance with the business purpose and conception of the International Youth Hostel Association.

It aims to satisfy the hospitality and communication needs of young travelers from all over the world. Located Near Changhong Bridge on the East Third Ring Road, the Youth Hostel is adjacent to Sanlitun Bar Street.

It is also within walking distance of Worker's Stadium, Chaoyang Park, and the Lufthansa Shopping Center. It is 20 minutes drive from the Capital Airport, and 15 minutes from Beijing Railway Station and Tian'anmen Square.

Facilities include self-catering dining room, reading room, games

Zhaolong International Youth Hostel

room, laundry room and shop. It has a central air-conditioning system, 24 hours hot water and shares f&b, health, and entertainment facilities with the adjoining 4-star Zhaolong Hotel. There are 2-6 beds per room.



How to get there: From Beijing Railway Station, take bus 403 or 120 to Workers' Stadium, then bus 113, 701 or trolley bus 115 to Zhaolong Hotel (or walk from Workers' Stadium), or take subway to Dongshitiao, then bus

113, 701, or trolley bus 115 to Zhaolong Hotel.

From Beijing West Railway Station, take bus 703 to Tuanjiehu, then walk to Zhaolong Hotel, or take bus 823 to Workers' Stadium (see above), or take bus 373, 374, 40, 50, 609, or double-decker No. 1 to Gongzhufen and take subway to Dongshitiao (see above).

Price For Youth Hostel members: 2-person room - 60 yuan/ per bed per night 4-person room - 50 yuan/ per bed per night 6-person room - 50 yuan/ per bed per night. Non-members: 2-person room - 70 yuan/ per bed per night 4-person room - 60 yuan/ per bed per night 6-person room - 60 yuan/ per bed per night

Membership Card: Adult - 60 yuan/ per person Student - 40 yuan/ per person. Term of validity: one year.

val Moon Cake (From now - 02 October) Celebrate the mid-Autumn festival with friends and loved ones, with our Chef Lo's tasty home-made moon cakes. Available for sale at Shang Palace and the Deli shop.

Stay at Swissotel Beijing

This summer and enjoy special rates on the newly renovated Swiss Executive Grand & Swiss Executive Suite all with an array of amenities.

Conducting your business at the Swissotel Beijing is now even easier. Each guest room comes equipped with all the latest accessories, including a spacious worktable, broadband Internet access, in-room fax machine (available on request) and world-class service.

For details or reservation, contact the reservation department.

Tel: 65012288
Fax: 65012506
Email: reservations.Beijing@swissotel.com

Two important details for purchasing an apartment

By Wang Dandan

Most purchasers understand the importance of ensuring a contract covers as many details as possible, but there are a couple of items that are easily overlooked.

The time by which the developer must provide Apartment Property Rights Certification should be clearly defined.

Sometimes a contract might state that the developer will deliver the Apartment Property Rights Certification "as soon as possible" or "in time". Such wording has no legal effect if a dispute arises. The purchaser should require the developer to write down a specific time of delivery of the certification in the contract.

If the developer delivers the certification after this time, the purchaser can cancel the contract or receive compensation accordingly.

Also, contract should have an exit clause in the event bank refuses to extend a loan.

Banks have strict requirements in terms of providing loans for the purchase of new apartments.

They require developers to provide five legal certifications, and if the developer is unable to show such documents, the banks will not provide loans.

When a purchaser signs the contract, they must ensure that it contains a clause allowing the purchaser to cancel the agreement if they cannot obtain a loan because of the developer's failure to provide the five legal certifications.

If a developer is reluctant to include such a clause, it suggests that the project might not be a legal one.

"HOUSING" welcomes your feedback:
What kind of difficulties do you encounter when looking for housing in Beijing? What kind of information do you need? What can we help you with?

Our E-mail: jianrong@ynet.com
Tel: 65902522
Fax: 65902525

Hotel special offers

By Wang Dandan

Beijing Weekend Escape

Take a weekend break at the Hilton Beijing and enjoy the value-added package, including:

Complimentary breakfast in the Atrium Cafe;

Complimentary use of Fitness Center and Swimming Pool - 10% discount at all restaurants;

Late check out till 4:00pm;

Welcome fruit bowl;

Rate is applicable Fridays, Saturdays and National Day Holidays, available to PRC citizens or expatriates with valid PRC residence permit.

Offer is inclusive of 15% surcharge & Government Development tax of RMB 12 per room per night.

Advance reservations required and the offer is subject to availability until February 28, 2002.

Tel: 64662288

National Day Package

28 September - 7 October

Relax in the tranquility of the Shangri-La Hotel, Beijing.

A wonderful experience for only 688 yuan for a Superior Room. Subject to 15% surcharge and 6 yuan City Development Tax per person per night.

Tel: 010 - 68416824, Fax: 010- 68418005

Japanese Matsutake Specials (3 - 21 September) Autumn is the traditional season of Matsutake mushrooms in Japan. Come and enjoy this fine delicacy as Sushi, grilled or as freshly prepared Tempura. Mid-Autumn Festi-



Repair guarantees for new apartments

By Wang Dandan

When a real estate developer hands over the keys of an apartment to the new owner, they have to provide an "apartment quality guarantee" and "apartment usage introduction".

The guarantee is a legal document assuring the apartment quality and relevant maintenance including; quality standard examined by project quality supervision units; range, time and company of the guarantee to keep apartments in good repair.

The developers should follow this guarantee and undertake relevant responsibilities. The guarantee takes effect from the day the purchaser takes possession.

Under normal circumstances, it should cover the following details:

three years for waterproof surface of the roof;

one year for wall, kitchen, bathroom, ground, and underground pipes;

one year for collapsed foundations;

one year for warping of windows and doors, hardware and bathroom fittings;

two months for blockages of pipes; six months for light switches and electrical fittings;

one season (winter or summer, as applicable) for heating and cooling devices;

The guarantee can be extended to cover other items, or the above items for a longer period, subject to the agreement of both parties.

Zhaolong International Youth Hostel

room, laundry room and shop. It has a central air-conditioning system, 24 hours hot water and shares f&b, health, and entertainment facilities with the adjoining 4-star Zhaolong Hotel. There are 2-6 beds per room.

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Sports & Activities

Learning Calligraphy

Chinese Culture Club teaches you how to appreciate a piece of Chinese calligraphy, and discusses its relationship with Yin & Yang and Chinese philosophy. English narration is provided.

Where: Beijing Friendship Association with Foreign Countries (Beijing Duiwai Youxie), Nanheyuan Dajie, walk north 200 meters from the west side of the Beijing Grand Hotel (Chang'an Avenue).

When: September 9, 4pm-6:30pm.

Tel: 84622081/13501035145

Email: chinese_cultureclub@hotmail.com

Two-month Calligraphy course

A two-month beginner's calligraphy class will be held starting September 16, one week after the calligraphy lecture. There will be eight classes, every Saturday afternoon till mid-November, costing 240 yuan.

Grape Picking

The grapes at the Jinzhai Planting Center are ready for picking. They are delicious and as big as ping-pong balls!

How to get there: Drive along the Jingchang Expressway to the Baigelu exit, then drive one and a half km east.

Tel: 80761236.



Salsa Party

Salsa lessons are offered every Friday and Saturday night.

Where: Cabo Bar (酷堡), near Scitech Hotel, Jianguomenwai Dajie, facing Scitech Tower, you'll see a taxi round-about in front of you. On your right, there is a little lane, go along that for 50 m, you'll see Cabo on the right.

When: Every Friday and Saturday.

Admission: 60 yuan.

Tel: 13661324324 (English), 13601113050 (Chinese).

2nd Anniversary of Vogue.

Free drinks for 2 hours (beer, gin & tonic, soft drinks). Ten DJs from all over the world: Australia, Spain, Japan, Hong Kong, and elsewhere.

Where: 88 Gongtilu, diagonally opposite City Hotel (城市宾馆).

When: Saturday, September 8, 9pm.

Admission: 100 yuan.

Tel: 64165316.

Italian Food at Adria

Buffet lunch for 58 or 68 yuan from 12pm-2:30pm, including many types of both Chinese and Western food, soft drinks and beer.

Add: 16 Xinyuanli, Chaoyang District, 300 m north of the Capital Mansion.

Tel: 64600896.

winning team.

Where: A9, Fuwaidajie (阜外大街), 2nd floor of Radisson Plaza State Guest Hotel, Xicheng District, bus 103, 102 to Lishilu (礼士路).

When: 7:30-11pm, daily.

Tel: 68005588.

Nichig Go

Authentic Japanese food, delicious and beautifully presented. Tepanyaki is a specialty.

Where: 3rd floor of Tian-lun Dynasty Hotel, 50 Wangfujing Avenue.

When: Lunch, 11am-2pm, dinner, 5pm-10pm.

Tel: 65138888-8171.



Performances

Acrobatic Show

Performance by China Acrobatic Troupe, the show includes spinning plates, juggling umbrellas, contortionists and acrobats.

Where: Tiandi Theater (天地剧院) Dongzhimen Nandajie, Chaoyang District.

When: Daily, 7:15pm.

Tel: 65023984.



Beijingzhankou, (Beijing Railway Station) then walk east.

When: September 16, 17.

Admission: 40-200 yuan.

Tel: 65101309.

Cross Talk (Xiang Sheng) Performance

Traditional Chinese art style

Where: Minority Grand Theater, 49 Fuxingmennei Dajie, Xicheng District, inside Minzu Hotel.

When: September 7, 8, 7:30pm.

Admission: 30 yuan.

Tel: 66022530.



Where: Chang'an Grand Theater, bus 1, 4, 120 or subway to

Music

Piano Recital by Einat Fabrikant

Israel pianist Einat Fabrikant will give her first concert in China. Program includes works from Beethoven, Brahms, Debussy, Ravel, Radzynski, and Ronn Yedidya.

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall, Zhongshan Park.

When: September 13, 7:30pm.

Admission: 50-300 yuan.

Tel: 65598285.



Beijing Symphony Orchestra Concert

An evening of Brahms; Violin Concerto in D and Symphony

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall, Zhongshan Park.

When: September 7, 7:30pm.

Admission: 30-150 yuan.

Tel: 65598285.

Stairway to Music 2001 Series

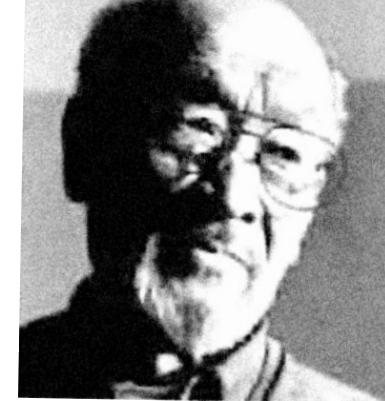
By BMS Young People's Orchestra. Conductor: Shao Zishou.

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall, Zhongshan Park.

When: September 8, 2pm.

Admission: 10-30 yuan.

Tel: 65598285.



Wang Luobin's Songs & Russian Songs Concert

By China Musicians Association Philharmonic Orchestra.

Where: National Library Concert Hall, 33 Zhongguancun Nandajie, Haidian District.

When: September 15 and 30, 7:15pm.

Admission: 20-100 yuan.

Tel: 68485462.

Not to Forget

Marking the September 18th Incident (Japanese invasion of Northeast China), a performance of songs and tunes composed during the War of Resistance Against Japan.

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1



Rock 'n' Roll

Performance by ten young rock bands.

Where: Get Lucky Bar (豪运酒吧), Taiyanggonglu, east of the south gate of Beijing University of International Business and Economics.

When: September 7 and 8, 9pm.

Admission: 20, 30 yuan.

Tel: 64299109.



China Computer World Exposition / Taiwan Trade Exhibition 2001 Beijing

Where: China International Exhibition Center, 6 Beisanhuan Donglu, Chaoyang District.

When: September 7-10, 9am-5pm.

Tel: 84601800.

Autumn Real Estate Exhibition 2001

Where: China World Trade Center (国贸), subway to Guomao.

When: Now-September 9.

Tel: 65052288.

Copper Drums

More than 60 drums from Yunnan and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region are on show. Some unearthed antiques are also exhibited.

Where: National Museum of Chinese History, east side of Tian'anmen Square.

When: until October 10, 9am-5pm.

Admission: 15 yuan.

Tel: 65128321.

Oriental Abstract

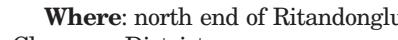
Abstract paintings by Li Geng, Yang Gang, Zhu Zhenggeng. In the principal of being "oriental, modern, creative and cultural".

Where: north end of Ritandonglu, Chaoyang District.

When: until Sep 21, 10am-7pm.

Admission: free

Tel: 65862740.



Movies

Italian Movie

The Earth Trembles, 1948, directed by Luchino Visconti.

Where: Space for Imagination Coffee House, 5 Xiwangzhuang Xiaoqu, opposite Tsinghua Tongfang Mansion, Haidian District.

When: September 8, 7pm.

Admission: 5 yuan.

Tel: 62791280.



American Movie: Sword Fish

Where: China Puppet Theater, 1A Anhuaxili (安惠西里), Beisanhuanlu, Chaoyang District.

When: September 7-12.

Tel: 64254798.



Chinese Movies

Movies from Taiwan (English subtitles): Yi Yi (One one), directed by Yang Dechang. Ai Qing Wan Sui (Viva Love), directed by Cai Mingliang;

Where: On & Off Bar (上下线酒吧), 1F, Liangbao Apartment, Xingfucun Zhonglu, Chaoyang District.

When: September 8 and 9, 2pm.

Admission: 10 yuan.

Tel: 64158083.

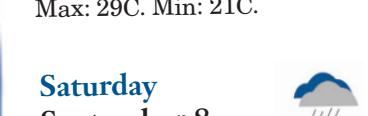


Friday

September 7

Overcast to cloudy.

Max: 29C. Min: 21C.

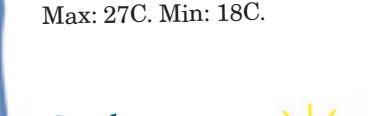


Saturday

September 8

Cloudy to overcast, showers.

Max: 27C. Min: 18C.

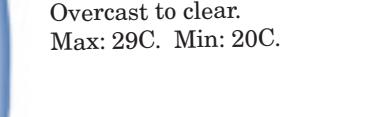


Sunday

September 9

Overcast to clear.

Max: 29C. Min: 20C.



Monday

September 10

Clear



Clean sand, clear water and spectacular sea views

Holiday in the Sun



Photo by Yang Bo

Beach holidays don't have to be synonymous with crowd-fatigue. Just a little way down the coast from the summer vacation throng at Beidaihe is the peaceful and relatively untouched Feicuidao.

By Yang Bo/Jiang Zhong
If you drive south from Beidaihe (北戴河), the popular seaside resort in Hebei Province, following the coastline along the Bohai Gulf (渤海湾) you will pass through Nandaihe (南戴河), Huangjinhai'an (黄金海岸) and Feicuidao (翡翠岛).

The further you get away from Beidaihe, the smaller the crowds of happy holiday makers, the clearer the seawater and the softer the sand on the beach. Beidaihe tends to be overwhelmed with tourists during summer and early autumn, with countless bodies lying on the beach and bobbing about in the water like dumplings boiling in a pot. A less crowded and altogether more comfortable seaside holiday option is a visit to Feicuidao, or Jadeite Island.

Feicuidao lies 25 kilometers northeast of Changli (昌黎), in Hebei Province, 40 kilometers from Beidaihe. Known locally as Dayu (大屿) big

island), it is actually a peninsula, connected to the mainland by a narrow isthmus.

One of the most popular attractions at Feicuidao is Sand Hill, standing close to the sea. 40 to 50 meters high, the steep hill is perfect for sand surfing.

Sit on your rented bamboo board on the top of the hill, and slide down the slope to the water's edge. And then do it again, and again ...

You don't have to fight to stake out a claim for your own bit of sea to swim in, as you usually do at Beidaihe. The water here is relatively uncrowded, and you can easily spend the whole day swimming and playing around in the water and on the beach.

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island), it is actually a peninsula, connected to the mainland by a narrow isthmus.

Next to the swimming area is a section of coral reef. If you enjoy diving, you can explore the world under the water's surface.

Besides the colorful coral, you will see all kinds of aquatic creatures: countless fish, crabs and sea slugs. When we spent our holiday there last week, a few of us caught enough crabs for a hearty crab feast using only a 3-inch Swiss army knife.

Just watch out when you are diving for the hooks of the fishermen, who tend to cast their lines after anything that stirs up a wave.

How to get there:

By train: Train Y509 to either Beidaihe or Changli, then hire a taxi to Feicuidao. Feicuidao is 40 kilometers from Beidaihe, and the taxi costs 80 yuan during peak season (July and August), a little less in the off-season. From Changli it's 25 kilometers, and the taxi should only cost 30 yuan.

There are many trains to Beidaihe during the peak season, and they are invariably packed, particularly if you're going for the weekend.

It's best to book in advance and buy your ticket back immediately on arrival at Beidaihe, unless you are planning on staying for an extended period.

Be sure to arrange with your taxi driver when to pick you up for the return trip to Beidaihe or Changli.

By car: Feicuidao is easy to get to by car. Take the Jingshen (京沈) Expressway, as far as Exit 18 (the exit for Changlihuangjinhai'an 昌黎黄海) and

驅黃金海岸). Drive along the Funing (阜寧)-Changlihuangjinhai'an road, when you get to the coast, you will see a sign for Feicuidao. The drive should only take about four hours.

Accommodation and food:

There is not much in the way of facilities on Feicuidao, so take whatever outdoor equipment you need with you. In the busy season, showers are available on the beach. Beer, soft drinks and snacks are available from a restaurant near the beach, however the snacks aren't great, so take some munchies with you. The restaurants around the entrance to Feicuidao are a better option, and offer reasonably priced seafood.

There are no hotels at Feicuidao, so you will need a tent if you plan to stay overnight there.

Admittance: 20 yuan per person, includes five turns at sand surfing. (Actually you can usually take as many turns as you like, nobody seems to count, except when it's busy.)

Things to do:

Swimming, sand surfing, fishing, sand-castle building, sunbathing, and beach volleyball. Boats are available for rent if you want to fish offshore.

Tips: Take mosquito repellent and sunscreen with you. You can rent sun-visors and life jackets for 10 yuan per day each.

Bicycle Tours



Hall of Great Success of Kongmiao
Picture by Chen Guangzhong

Confucius Temple (Kongmiao 孔庙)

By Chen Guangzhong/Jiang Zhong

The Confucius Temple, next to the Imperial College (Guozijian 国子监), is the second largest Confucian temple in China, after the one in Qufu (曲阜), Shandong Province.

The emperors of the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties all held ceremonies here to honour the great scholar.

The temple occupies an area of 22,000 square meters in tranquil surroundings. There are three courtyards within the temple; the famous buildings are Gate of the First Teacher (Xianshimen 先师门), Gate of Great Success (Dachengmen 大成门), Hall of Great Success (Dachengdian 大成殿), Gate of Sage Admiring (Chongshengmen 崇圣门) and Shrine of Sage Admiring (Chongshengci 崇圣祠).

A tablet at the entrance to the temple reminds all those who enter (even emperors) that they should dismount from their horse, or get down from their sedan chair as a mark of respect towards Confucius. The text is written in Manchu, Han, Mongolian and Islamic scripts.

Inside the Gate of the First Teacher is a courtyard with a series of pavilions which house 198 stone tablets. The tablets bear the names of all the scholars who, in past dynasties, passed the imperial examinations held every three years.

The Gate of Great Success is in the north of the courtyard, and there are some ancient musical instruments and some other scholars' memorial tablets preserved there. The statues of Confucius' 72 students have been recently added.

There is a well in the temple that was named Yanshuihu (砚水湖) by the Emperor Qianlong. It was said that one who drank the water of the well would write very good articles.

There is also an old cypress named Treacherous Official Distinguishing Tree (Chujianbai 触奸柏) before the Hall of Great Success. It was said that if a treacherous court official walked under the tree, a wind would spring up and blow off his black gauze cap (a cap used to indicate his position).

Further inside there are 189 stone tablets on which are inscribed the thirteen Confusion Classical Writings, the best preserved such tablets in China.

Where: 13 Guozijianjie (国子监街), Dongcheng District, Beijing

How to get there: Subway to Yonghegong (雍和宫)

Open: 8:30am-5pm

Admittance: 10 yuan



The Treacherous Official Distinguishing Tree.
Picture by Chen Guangzhong

If you have any bright ideas for great days out around Beijing, we'd love to hear from you. Please send any ideas, photos, itineraries to us.

Contact: Jiang Zhong, Tel: 6590 2520, e-mail:bjtodayplan@ynet.com